



This small herd of gazelles was spotted yesterday by drivers on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway near Mevasseret Zion. (Scoop 80)

Austrians rally round Waldheim

By ILONA HENRY

VIENNA. — Austrians rallied round their president, Kurt Waldheim, yesterday in response to the American decision to bar the former UN secretary-general from entering the U.S. because of his war record.

U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese defended the Justice Department decision, saying all the evidence relating to Waldheim's activities in the German army during World War II had been scrupulously studied.

Initial reactions in Austria to the news were of utter shock. Many had feared the U.S. decision, but were confident that the U.S. would not move to a concrete decision.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky led the Austrian chorus of disapproval calling the U.S. ban "incomprehensible."

Waldheim himself said there could be no proof he was guilty of wrongdoing during the war, and demanded the right not to be accused in the absence of evidence.

"I have a clean conscience," the 68-year-old former UN chief said in a recorded television statement last night, responding to a ban imposed by the U.S. on his entry into the country as a private citizen.

Waldheim went on: "Let me state

as firmly as I can that there can be no evidence of culpable behaviour."

The U.S. Justice Department had said yesterday that its decision was based on a law prohibiting entry to any foreign national "who assisted or otherwise participated in activities amounting to persecution during World War II."

Waldheim told his nation that "however much this situation moves me, I am deeply convinced that truth and justice will win out. I say this in



Kurt Waldheim

full responsibility for my high office in the state and for our fatherland," he said in his five-minute address.

Waldheim reiterated that he had already asked researchers to prepare a "White Book" about his past during the war years. "This documentation will be made available to the public shortly," Waldheim said without giving details.

He called the U.S. decision against him "dismaying and incomprehensible." He did not relate to Austria's role in the war or the Holocaust.

U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese has defended the U.S. decision strongly, saying it had been made after an extensive review of all information in the case.

Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, Meese said Waldheim himself had made "nearly half a dozen submissions of facts" that had been checked out meticulously by U.S. justice investigators before the ruling was handed down.

Meese, in Belgium to consult West European interior ministers over international moves to combat terrorism, repeated the view that under American law there was a "prima facie case of excludability" against Waldheim.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Pollard panel hits Peres, Rabin

By ASHER WALLFISH

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday told Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to mind their own business and stop denigrating the sub-committee on intelligence and security services which is studying the Pollard espionage affair.

But Rabin, who appeared before the full committee yesterday in accordance with a long-standing appointment, refused to retract any of his criticisms when asked to do so by the members.

Rabin and Peres on Monday night tongue-lashed two sub-committee members, both of their own Alignment faction, at a reception for the

outgoing and incoming chiefs of general staff.

The chairman of the full committee and the sub-committee, Abba Eban, issued a statement yesterday evening in the name of the full committee, stressing that the sub-committee, despite the criticism, would carry on its work and "not be deterred from telling the truth as it sees it."

Eban said: "The sub-committee will ignore pressures intended to impair its function. The Knesset, to which the members of the government are subject, charged us with maintaining supervision, control and investigation over the functioning of important systems.

"If this sub-committee does not

fulfil its mission, it will cease to exist entirely, and there will be an increased risk of the sort of hitches and complications which have occurred so frequently of late."

"Shortly, when the time comes, the sub-committee will say what it thinks about the functioning of the systems of government in all spheres and echelons.

"The sub-committee is aware that it has no judicial status whereby it can hand down judgement on people, but it has the authority to publish appraisals and impressions, and to propose the rectification of acts and of organisational systems," Eban said.

Earlier, when Rabin appeared to

(Continued on Page 3)

'Israel not cooperating on Irangate probe'

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — U.S. Congressional investigators looking into the Iran arms affair yesterday expressed their disappointment at Israel's failure to cooperate with them, despite earlier promises.

The investigators have rejected the latest Israeli demand that the U.S. grant immunity from criminal prosecution to all Israeli citizens implicated in the Iranian financial transactions as a precondition for the sharing of Israeli-collected data.

Israel is also insisting that it have veto power over any subsequent committee publication of Israeli-provided information, according to U.S. and Israeli sources in Washington.

Finally, the sources said, Israel does not want any of its information provided to the independent U.S. counsel investigating the affair, Lawrence Walsh.

Walsh yesterday said his investigation covered possible violations by high U.S. government officials and that large sums of money remained unaccounted for.

"The allegations in the investigation concern possible violations of public trust and possible misuse of position by high government officials and their manipulation by former government officials," Walsh said.

"Large sums of public money are unaccounted for and those most knowledgeable resist public disclosure," he said in his 17-page report

to Congress.

House and Senate investigators, gearing up for the start early next month of several weeks of nationally televised hearings on the Iran arms affair and the alleged diversion of profits to the Nicaragua contra rebels, went to the Israeli Embassy on Monday to review an Israeli-prepared financial summary of the deals but were given "some terms and conditions they could not agree on for its use," a House committee spokesman said.

"We are still negotiating on its terms."

Israel has not yet completed its own separate chronology of the affair, beginning in 1985, U.S. and Israeli sources said.

U.S. investigators charged that

(Continued on Back Page)

Peres to hand U.S. plan on parley to gov't soon

U.S. 'resigned' to fall of unity gov't

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration has become increasingly resigned to the possible breakup of Israel's national unity government over the issue of an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Still, authoritative U.S. officials yesterday said that the administration had decided to intensify U.S. efforts to organize such a conference despite its own misgivings and the serious differences between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres.

But, while acknowledging some intensified diplomacy in recent weeks aimed at getting an international conference off the ground, the Americans remain generally gloomy about the prospects, given the split in Israel and the unresolved matter of Palestinian representation at such a conference.

Secretary of State George Shultz has made it clear that he does not

want the administration to be accused of interfering in domestic Israeli politics. It is for that reason, U.S. officials said, that Shultz has decided temporarily to defer a return visit to the Middle East.

Privately, the Americans are much more concerned about expected PLO-organized demonstrations on the West Bank and Gaza in early June to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1967 Six-Day War. "We could be in for some fireworks," a U.S. official confided.

The Americans fear that such demonstrations will underscore the PLO popularity among West Bankers and Gazans, and the seeming futility of trying to get Jordan to represent those Palestinians in any negotiations with Israel.

In addition, U.S. counterterrorism experts say they anticipate violence by Palestinian terrorists and their radical supporters in the coming weeks. The Americans fear that these terrorists may strike anywhere

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

American envoy seeking agreement with Hussein

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent Foreign Minister Peres hopes to submit an American-sponsored plan for the convening of an international conference for the Middle East to the cabinet towards the end of next month, probably following his and King Hussein's planned visits to Washington.

By that time, sources say, Peres hopes that U.S. special ambassador Wat Cluervius will have reached agreement with Hussein on the two outstanding bilateral issues — the nature of the Palestinian representation and the length and frequency of the sessions of the conference's plenary meetings.

Cluervius, it has been learned, has not yet approached West Bank notables to seek their agreement to participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference. Observers expect the Americans, Jordan and Egypt to begin seeking potential delegation members after the expected Hussein-

Mubarak meeting in Cairo in the coming days — if the two Arab leaders decide that, in the wake of the PNC's rejectionist decisions, they must seek Palestinians ready to participate in peace talks from among non-PLO members.

Both Peres and Prime Minister Shamir, who is currently visiting France, refused to confirm or deny reports that Peres had recently met Hussein somewhere in the Arava and that the two had agreed on the "modalities" of the international conference.

These agreed modalities — including the non-participation of the PLO, the break-up of the conference into regional, bilateral working committees and heraldic and non-coercive nature of the conference plenum — are set down in a working paper apparently prepared by Cluervius and submitted during the past few days to Peres and Shamir. Shamir's aides claim that the paper was formulated by Peres or his aides, not by the U.S., and that it has not

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Hussein in Cairo today to confer on PLO break

By Post Middle East Staff and Agencies

Jordan's King Hussein is expected to arrive in Cairo today to confer with President Hosni Mubarak following Mubarak's virtual break in relations with the PLO.

Hussein and Mubarak are expected to discuss new formulas for convening an international peace conference in the face of the PLO's rejection of Egypt, Jordan and Arab moderates, Israeli observers said.

The meeting is one of a number of diplomatic moves underway in the moderate Arab camp in reaction to the new positions taken by the PLO at the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers.

The PLO's newfound unity with its radical rivals has increased its isolation from moderate Arab states and intensified divisions between hardline and moderate Arab states over the nature of a proposed peace conference, according to Western diplomats in Cairo.

Jordan and Tunisia yesterday issued a joint statement calling for an early Arab summit to adopt a unified stand on the conditions for convening a peace conference.

Also yesterday, the PLO de-

nounced as "reprehensible" and "not justified" Mubarak's decision to shut down the PLO's Egyptian operations.

Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, the PLO's chief information officer, said in Tunis: "The decision came as a violent shock to the Palestinian people and leadership."

"The PLO leadership has repeatedly declared its interest in preserving relations with Egypt, and the national council took no decision that could serve as a pretext for this sudden action."

Diplomatic sources said seven Cairo PLO offices and their branches in Alexandria were closed three hours before Egypt's announcement of the measure by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, they included Cairo's main PLO office, which had near diplomatic status, the PLO's Fatah faction office, the PLO news agency Wafa, and the unions of Palestinian writers, workers, women and social welfare.

In Amman, Jordanian newspapers said Egypt's decision to close the PLO offices was "understandable," and "came as no surprise."

The PLO offices were originally

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

EC said pressing U.S. to back Peres's plan

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent LONDON. — European Economic Community governments were yesterday reported to be pressing the U.S. to throw its weight behind Foreign Minister Peres and against Premier Yitzhak Shamir on the issue of an international peace conference.

Whitehall sources refused to confirm the reports, which emanated from Monday's meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Luxembourg. But *The Jerusalem Post* was told: "The EEC has made its position very clear. We have endorsed the principle of an international conference, and we have ensured that the Americans are well aware of this."

Under the presidency of Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, the EEC has been working hard to generate momentum for a conference, but Britain on Monday again squashed Tindemans's requests that high-level talks be permitted between Syria and the community.

Tindemans, who has just visited Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and who will shortly tour Algeria, Morocco and Israel, told his fellow ministers that he wished to invite

Syria's foreign minister for talks in Brussels next month. Tindemans has now reportedly agreed to shelve the idea.

It is feared here that community efforts towards a conference may have been thwarted by the rupture in relations between Egypt and the PLO, following the Palestine National Council meetings in Algiers.

Yossi Lempkowicz adds from

Brussels: The PLO's hardened position has dashed the European Community's optimism about a Middle East peace conference, diplomatic sources noted yesterday.

Speaking after the community's council meeting, Tindemans expressed concern about this development but said that Arafat's renunciation of his 1985 accord with Jordan was not a "mortal" blow "at this stage." He added it was "too early to draw definite conclusions from the Algiers meeting."

He said that after a visit to Israel on May 9 he would go on to Algeria and Tunisia where he would certainly meet with PLO officials, including Arafat.

Shamir, in Paris, reiterates his opposition

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI

Jerusalem Post Correspondent PARIS. — Israel's divergent views on an international peace conference took up a good part of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's meeting here yesterday as he reiterated his opposition to such an option.

On the second day of his official visit to France, at a luncheon in his

honour at the residence of National Assembly Speaker Jacques Chaban-Delmas, Shamir explained to his host that he did not believe that "the internationalization of our regional conflict would bring peace."

According to Shamir's aides, the argument apparently struck a sensitive chord.

Shamir was given a big hand when

he appeared in the visitor's gallery of the Chamber of Deputies. He then met with the Assembly's Israel Friendship Group.

Shamir has made it clear that his top priority is Israel's economy. "We have succeeded in overcoming some of our most difficult problems thanks to the existence of the national unity cabinet," he said. "Of course, such a government is not ideal. We have divergent views, but personal relations within the cabinet are quite good. Elections would be too high a price to pay. This is why the unity government must continue."

Circles close to the PM stressed that he had told his hosts he would not do anything that would lead to the downfall of the government.

"Economy is the main issue right now," the sources said. "Peres, with his international peace conference has got involved in an adventure which leads nowhere."

Last night, Shamir again met with Premier Jacques Chirac. The two leaders visited the La Villette Museum in the north of Paris.

Today Shamir is due to meet with President Francois Mitterrand.

Tel Aviv as expensive as New York

Jerusalem Post Staff

Tel Aviv is the 35th expensive city in the world, for business people, trailing only one point behind New York, and barely beating Los Angeles, according to a recent executive cost-of-living survey.

Japan holds the first two positions on the AP list, with Tokyo and Osaka rated as the most pricey cities for business people to live in, followed by three African cities — Brazzaville, Dakar and Douala.

Among the 100 cities assessed, the cheapest to live in are Rio de Janeiro, Beijing and Mexico City.

'Reign of terror' charge against new Leumi chief

By PINHAS LANDAU

Bank Leumi's new top executives are expected to announce the bank's 1986 results at a press conference today — and are also likely to be confronted with charges being made inside and outside the bank that the new chief executive officer, Zedek Bino, has instituted a "reign of terror" among the upper echelons.

At their first public appearance

together since Bino's appointment in February, bank chairman Meir Heth and Bino are also expected to present their strategy for restoring both Leumi's profitability and the morale of its senior officers.

Bino, 45, who moved from the chairmanship of First International Bank to become Leumi's general manager in the wake of the scandal that toppled Mordechai Einhorn, is

accused of treating many of the bank's top management echelon with almost open contempt, apparently regarding them as place-men promoted by former chairman Ernst Japhet, and essentially unworthy of their posts.

The soured atmosphere among the upper echelons has already resulted in the resignation of senior deputy general manager, Yedidia Greenberg, who was highly regarded as head of the banking division. Unlike the recently resigned head of the finance division, Haim Buchsbaum, who was a close confidant of Japhet, and who is believed to have been pressured by Bino to resign, Greenberg resigned in an unsolicited move that came as a shock to Bino.

Other resignations are expected, some of executives "pushed" by Bino and others of executives who will "jump" of their own accord. The atmosphere at Leumi has

therefore become uncertain and even fearful, with no one sure where, or on whom, the axe will fall next. It is this unhealthy state of affairs within the bank that Heth, and especially Bino will have to reverse in an effort to restore Leumi's position as the largest and most profitable Israeli bank, a place it has lost to its arch-rival Bank Hapoalim, which last week

announced a net profit of NIS 25 million.

Bino has already instituted cost-cutting measures at Leumi in the less than three months since his arrival, and the bank has adopted several important initiatives in that time, in both the household and business sectors. But he has not yet made public any general assessment of the bank's strategy and direction.

FRIDAY IS EARLY THIS WEEK!

This Friday the first of May, The Jerusalem Post together with other newspapers will not be published. Remember to get your complete Weekend Issue of our paper (magazine, entertainment supplement, in Jerusalem/Metro) on THURSDAY, APRIL 30.

Thank you.
Circulation Dept.,
The Jerusalem Post.

With deep sorrow, we announce the death in Jerusalem on Tuesday, April 28, 1987, of

IKE (Yitzhak) LADAR

His wife: Rahel
Son and daughter-in-law: Doron and Yochi
Daughter and son-in-law: Varda and Sinai
Daughter: Iris

The funeral procession will leave the Sanhedria parlour at 2 p.m. today for the Har Hamenuhot cemetery.

Nafsu rejects deal

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporter Izat Nafsu has rejected government lawyers' proposals for a deal under which the State would not contest his Supreme Court appeal in exchange for his pledge not to press charges against his Shin Bet investigators.

Nafsu's lawyer, Ariebe Kamar, who is seeking a Supreme Court acquittal for his client, claims that Nafsu is innocent and needs no arrangements with state prosecutors.

The State Attorneys Office and the military attorneys handling the

Nafsu case have yet to decide on their line of defence before the Supreme Court. Nafsu, a former IDF lieutenant, was sentenced in 1981 to 18 years in prison on charges of treason and espionage, but claims that he was framed.

Attorney-General Yosef Harish is exploring ways of avoiding a possible

police probe of Nafsu's Shin Bet investigators, who, according to informed sources, employed illegal interrogation techniques and committed perjury.

Military attorneys have been questioning the investigators to ascertain the scope of improprieties in the case.

Itim reported yesterday that the military judge advocate-general was adamantly opposed to any publication of the contents of the Nafsu file or of his Supreme Court appeal.

The attorney-general will apparently adopt the military judge advocate-general's position in his response to Nafsu's High Court petition, due to be heard on May 10. In the petition, Kamar has asked that the secrecy order imposed on Nafsu's appeal be lifted to counteract the "distorted leaks to the media" which are damaging his client's interests.

Nafsu's Supreme Court appeal is scheduled to be heard on May 24.

Israeli jets buzz Syrians in Lebanon

SIDON (AP). — Israeli jets buzzed Syrian positions on the outskirts of this port city after nightfall last night, dropping parachute flares and drawing anti-aircraft fire from nearby

Palestinian positions, police said. They said the warplanes roared at rooftop level in three mock attacks over Sidon's Ein Hilweh refugee camp and Syrian checkpoints.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	7-15	19-26	Clear
BRUSSELS	10-14	22-27	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	11-16	24-29	Cloudy
CHICAGO	11-15	21-26	Clear
COPENHAGEN	8-14	19-24	Clear
FRANKFURT	9-14	19-24	Clear
GENEVA	8-14	19-24	Clear
HELSINKI	1-9	14-19	Cloudy
HONG KONG	21-26	27-32	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	11-22	23-28	Clear
LISBON	14-17	21-24	Clear
LONDON	8-14	19-24	Clear
MADRID	12-16	21-26	Cloudy
MONTREAL	3-7	12-17	Cloudy
NEW YORK	7-14	19-24	Clear
OSLO	4-9	14-19	Clear
PARIS	12-16	21-26	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	18-23	24-29	Clear
SAO PAULO	18-23	24-29	Clear
STOCKHOLM	6-12	17-22	Clear
TOKYO	11-16	21-26	Clear
TORONTO	11-16	21-26	Clear
VIENNA	3-7	12-17	Cloudy
ZURICH	6-12	17-22	Clear

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

Tel Aviv: Ben Yehuda St. Tel. 02-5102620
Jerusalem: 20 Jaffa St. 02-231373
Haifa: 2 Sif Road 04-282695
Beer Sheva: 38 Highway St. 052-25232
Gaza: Ben Gurion Airport 03-5712151

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Hot and dry in the morning, followed by cooler and more humid weather in the afternoon.

	Yesterday's	Today's
Jerusalem	20	23
Golan	22	24
Nahariya	22	26
Safed	17	21
Haifa Port	17	21
Tiberias	32	28
Nazareth	22	22
Afula	42	27
Shomron	27	25
Tel Aviv	47	24
B-G Airport	30	26
Jericho	29	31
Gaza	66	24
Beersheba	33	29
Eilat	12	30

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Bundestag member Hildegard Hamm-Brucher yesterday visited the Israel Museum.

In Memoriam

A memorial ceremony was held yesterday at Har Hamenuhot on the 24th anniversary of the death of Israel's second president, Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. Attending were President Chaim Herzog, Hagana veterans, family and friends.

Sharir absent from lawyers' conference

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Jerusalem attorney Ya'acov Rubin, recently elected Israel Bar Chairman on an independent ticket, was formally sworn in yesterday. In elections held last month, Rubin defeated outgoing chairman Menahem Berger, a Herut member who was backed by an unlikely coalition of Herut, Labour and the religious parties. Some 450 lawyers attended the ninth annual Bar convention held at the organization's newly constructed headquarters in Jerusalem. Many participants expressed anger at the absence of Justice Minister Avraham Shinar.

Sharir's office said that the minister spent the day in Haifa, where, as Tourism Minister, he inaugurated a tourist water-sports facility. Deputy Supreme Court President Miriam Ben-Porat called on the Bar to increase its involvement in public affairs, especially the safeguarding of the rule of law. The convention rejected a proposal which would have limited the chairman's freedom to speak out on public matters. It also called for the addition of more jurists to the Judges Appointments Committee.

'Palestinian' won't play in Dusseldorf

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA - The Municipal Theatre will not perform its controversial play, *The Palestinian*, in Dusseldorf, West Germany next month. The theatre's board of directors last night decided by majority vote to accede to Dusseldorf Jewish community's request that the play not be performed there for fear it may stir up anti-Semitism. A selection of the theatre's repertoire will be presented instead. But the play will be performed as scheduled in the other towns in Germany, Holland and Belgium during the theatre's two-week tour.

LOTTO - In yesterday's Lotto draw, the following numbers were picked: 1, 3, 8, 28, 31, 36. The additional number was 24.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

At Six Day War symposium

Rabin: PLO strengthened but not a partner for peace

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV - The Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers had strengthened the PLO's stature in the Arab world, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

But the hard-line policy adopted there should convince Egypt and Jordan that the PLO cannot be a partner to peace, and once they realized that, the chances of concluding a deal with Israel would improve.

Delivering the concluding address at a symposium on the 1967 Six Day War by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, Rabin said that in the wake of the PNC meeting "we face a renewal or a certain increase in the PLO's power."

This is reflected in the image the PLO has in the Arab world and may also affect Palestinians in the administered territories, who have now

seen the PLO factions closing ranks and even insisting that their organization has no ties with Egypt unless Cairo abrogates the peace agreement with Israel.

Rabin seemed to believe that the PLO would not have dared take such steps in 1982 after the IDF occupied part of Lebanon and destroyed its infrastructure there, and even more so after Syria expelled forces loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Arafat "crawled to Mubarak and Hussein then," Rabin recalled, adding that the Egyptian president and Jordan's king had erred at that time. "The PLO was strengthened as a result of their aid and now they are paying the price," Rabin maintained.

Referring to the PLO's present uncompromising stance towards Israel, Rabin said he preferred "an undisguised and unmasked PLO. I never believed in its pragmatism and I prefer that it appear as it did in

Algiers, because that is the real image of Arafat's PLO. All the well-intentioned Israelis who believed it might be a partner had better sober up."

Rabin then turned to Egypt and Jordan, as an aide to Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny listened attentively, occasionally taking notes.

"If Egypt, if Jordan will learn the lesson of what the PLO is, as [the late Egyptian president Anwar] Sadat knew, and if there is readiness on Israel's part, then there is a chance of an Egyptian-Jordanian-Israeli move without the PLO," he said.

Such a deal would not necessarily be made behind the Palestinians' backs and some Palestinians could be induced to take part in peace talks, he indicated.

Recent statements by Gaza's deposed mayor Rashad al-Shawwa suggested that he had faced the realities



Egyptian security guards stand outside PLO headquarters in Cairo following the government's decision Monday to close down all PLO offices in Egypt. (AFP telephoto)

"I am sure many [others] don't speak up because they fear PLO terrorism and uncertainty as to whether Egypt and Jordan are really ready to take a courageous step and sit down with us for political negotiations."

In the meantime, Israel will have to convince Arab leaders that they cannot expect a military victory over Israel, nor wear it out. Arab rulers will not agree to political negotiations unless they realize

that they will lose if they try terrorism, he added. The JCSS symposium is an annual event commemorating the late IDF chief of General Staff David (Dado) Elazar.

Expert: Trawniki ID 'most likely' Demjanjuk



The left half of this electronic photo-mix picture was taken on Demjanjuk's arrival here last year, when he wore glasses. The right half is from the Trawniki ID card.

By ERNIE MEYER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

West German photo identification expert Reinhard Altmann said yesterday there was a "very high likelihood" that the photograph on the Trawniki identity card - the key exhibit of the case - is that of John Demjanjuk.

He based his finding on the intricate method of identification he has developed for the German Federal Police.

His examination involved taking the photo on the Trawniki card and comparing it with seven other photos of the accused. These pictures range from a 1941 picture of Demjanjuk in the uniform of the Kommando Soviet youth organization to a photo of him on his arrival here last year.

Prosecutor Michael Shaked continued the questioning of Altmann he had begun the day before, when the witness had related to fingerprint identification. Said Altmann: "As distinct from fingerprinting, where you deal with certainty because no two prints are ever the same, in comparing photos you deal only with degrees of likelihood that you are correct." He established seven degrees of likelihood:

1. not identifiable;
2. identification possible;
3. identification likely to be correct;
4. high likelihood of correctness;
5. very high likelihood;
6. likelihood bordering on certainty;
7. identifiable with absolute certainty.

Altmann explained that the highest degree, that of "absolute certainty," was reserved for cases where identity was not in dispute. The second-highest degree, that of "bordering on certainty," was very rare. "But I have not the slightest doubt that the person on the Trawniki ID card is the same as that on the other seven photos."

Asked Shaked: "In that case, why not give the second-highest grade of 'bordering on certainty'?"

The witness explained that the second-highest grade is given in cases where identification is based on the presence of special marks, which is very rare. "The difference between it and the rating I gave is almost nil."

Shaked then asked the witness to explain to the court how his method works. (Continued on Page 9)

U.S. PLAN

(Continued from Page One)
been adopted by the U.S. The paper states that the secretary-general of the UN will summon the international conference. Speaking on Israel Television last night, Peres referred to "the American (working) paper."

Political sources said this working paper did not bar the participation of the PLO in the conference and did not stipulate conditions for Soviet participation.

In the TV interview, Peres said that "we will find a [joint] Jordanian-Palestinian delegation [for the conference] without the PLO. We have reached a moment of agreement. One can now [either] miss the opportunity or grab it." Peres said that he preferred that Israel go to the conference, "which will lead to direct

talks," with a unity government at its helm but that "peace is more important than the unity government."

If the unity government blocks movement towards peace, Peres said, he prefers its break-up and general elections.

Peres dismissed as "excessive," or as "mere excuses," the fears voiced by the Likud about an international conference.

Shamir, also interviewed on Israel TV last night, denied that Israel was being pressured - presumably by the U.S. - to attend an international conference. "I see no pressure," he said, in an apparent reference to the April 26 message he received from President Reagan, which implicitly

urged him to consider an international conference as a means of reaching direct negotiations with Jordan.

Political sources last night revealed the text of Reagan's message to Shamir, which is addressed to "Dear Yitzhak" and is signed: "Sincerely, Ron."

The four-paragraph letter describes U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's "moving experience" at the Moscow Passover seder. It goes on to reiterate the "strong and enduring ties of friendship between our two countries."

The letter states: "George made it very clear to all those whom he met in Moscow that we are committed to

peace in the Middle East and to the conviction that it can only be achieved as the result of direct negotiations between the parties. I believe that we may now have an historic opportunity to make progress towards our shared goal (peace)." The U.S., the letter continues, "is ready to explore the possibility of an international conference as one of the ways to reach direct negotiations."

In the TV interview, Shamir said, referring to the plan for an international conference Peres intends to submit to the cabinet: "I am ready to discuss anything so long as there is a [formal] proposal."

Political sources said that many of Israel's Middle East experts - in the research departments of Israel's intelligence community - agree that Hussein, while continuing to be on the verge of entering negotiations with Israel, will never do so. The sources said that Peres is steadily briefed by these experts, but refuses to accept their conclusions.

Michel Zlotowski reports from Paris: Shamir yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* "I was never opposed, and never will be, to personal contacts with leaders of Arab countries."

Shamir said the recent messages he had received from President Reagan "did not stress an international conference in particular. President Reagan wrote to me that one has to seize every opportunity to make peace," he added. "On this point, our positions are identical. I am always ready to make every effort for peace with Jordan and other neighbours. But this doesn't change my view that an international peace conference will not bring peace."

According to the WJC official, Elan Steinberg, "I can't say whether this was directly influenced by the Linas case, but certainly press attention and interest in that case seems to have heightened every one's sensitivity and awareness of Nazi related questions."

Brazilian imprisoned for life in kidnap-murder of soldier

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

NABLUS - A Brazilian national was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment by the military court here for her role in the kidnap-murder of soldier David Manos. Her accomplice received a 12-year sentence.

Lamia Ma'aruf, a Brazilian citizen, was given a life term for renting and driving the car used in the abduction two-and-a-half years ago. Her husband, Tawfik Ibrahim Abdallah, was sentenced last October to life imprisonment for the murder.

Zohara Said was sentenced to 12 years in jail for her role in planning the abduction and smuggling Manos's documents to the Fatah organization in Jordan. Her husband, Mustafa Mahmud Karush, was also sentenced in October to life imprisonment.

The group from Dir Bahut village in the West Bank picked up Manos from a soldiers' hitch-hiking shelter near Lod, and later bound and choked him to death in a cave near the village. The soldier's body was found a year ago.

Youth movement graduates organizing to fight yerida

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV - Former members of pioneering Zionist youth movements are organizing to stem the tide of emigration from Israel.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-Oz, who heads the newly-formed Association to Stop Yerida, said this week that 375,000 people have been out of the country for at least seven years and are officially defined as *yordim*. But, Katz-Oz added, 300,000 have left Israel for shorter periods and a similar number of children were born to emigrants abroad, and hold Israeli citizenship.

The new association plans to "put the shame back" into being an emigrant and create a climate of opinion that will not accept talk of wanting to leave the country.

The media can play an important part here, he said, by featuring successful Israelis, rather than former

Israelis who have grown rich abroad. On a more practical level, the association's volunteers will visit families considering emigrating. "We don't want to become another welfare service, but we may be able to be of some limited help in solving employment, housing and other problems," Katz-Oz said. Efforts to reach people before they start thinking of emigrating will include talks to children and soldiers, and a "We Are Here" statement which people on the street will be asked to sign.

He said the association was particularly interested in attracting emigrants who have come back to Israel and can explain that the grass is not greener elsewhere.

Though the association is negotiating with all the youth movements to involve their members and graduates in its work, individual volunteers are also invited to contact it at 03-454332.

HUSSEIN

(Continued from Page One)

closed by Arafat after Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel. But they reopened in 1983 when Mubarak welcomed Arafat to Cairo after he had been forced out of Lebanon by Damascus-backed Palestinian dissidents.

Cairo yesterday blamed Libya and Syria for backing an anti-Egyptian line at last week's PNC meeting in Algiers. Arafat, Egyptian newspapers said, had compromised with an

enemy - Syria - at the expense of a friend.

In Moscow, the party newspaper *Pravda* said yesterday that the success of the new PLO unity programme depended largely on the PLO maintaining good relations with Syria. Moscow has been pushing for a Syrian-PLO reconciliation. But in Damascus, two headline pro-Syrian Palestinian factions yesterday strongly condemned the results of last week's PNC meeting.

The unveiling of the tombstone of

SHLOMO BEIN

will take place on Friday, May 1, at 11 a.m., at Hof Hacamel Cemetery, Haifa (main entrance). We thank all our friends for their sympathy, shown on this sad occasion.

The Bein Family

The Ross Family of Los Angeles

are sad to announce the untimely passing of their beloved son, of blessed memory

PETER ALLEN ROSS

Founder of the Fish Grill, Los Angeles. The family have come to Jerusalem to bury their beloved son at Eretz Hachaim cemetery. They are sitting shiva at the Windmill Hotel, Jerusalem, this week.

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved

MICHAEL MALC

a memorial meeting and unveiling of the tombstone will be held on Friday, May 1, 1987, at 2 p.m., at the Kfar Samir cemetery, Haifa. We shall meet at the main entrance.

Olga Malc and Family

TECHNION

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and Technion's International Board of Governors express their condolences to Lord Sieff of Brimpton on the passing of his brother

MICHAEL SIEFF

The unveiling of the memorial stone for the late

Dr. ALEXANDER DOV SCHONFELD

of Munkatch - St. Louis

will take place on Thursday, April 30, 1987 (Rosh Hodesh Iyar 5747) at 5.45 p.m., at the grave in Har Hamenuhot

Transportation will be provided from the Central Hotel at 5.30 p.m.

UNITY GOV'T

(Continued from Page One)

in the world. U.S. officials have confirmed that President Reagan sent a message to Shamir urging Israel to take advantage of what the Americans see as a more favourable climate of opinion in much of the Arab world to advancing the peace process. The Americans have been especially impressed by the positions taken by Jordan and Egypt.

But neither Jordan nor Egypt is yet prepared to endorse the U.S. and Israeli positions on the role of the

plenary members at an international conference. Both Washington and Jerusalem want the opening plenary session of a conference to be largely symbolic and all substantive negotiations to take place in separate bilateral subcommittees.

The Americans have been encouraged to move ahead in the effort to convene an international conference by what they have now confirmed are somewhat more moderate signals from the Soviet Union and Syria.

The Soviet position was made clear to Shultz during his talks in Moscow earlier this month and around the same time, to Peres during the Socialist International meeting in Rome.

The Syrian stance was conveyed during former president Jimmy Carter's visit to Damascus earlier this month. President Hafez Assad proposed a similar position to Jordan, too, according to U.S. and Jordanian officials.

On his 80th birthday a host of admirers greet MOSHE CHAIM WEILER as Inspiring Rabbi, Teacher, Friend.

Until One Hundred and Twenty!

Lillian and Edgar Siskin

Police shoot at demonstrating students

South African court strikes down key emergency laws

DURBAN. — As South African authorities showed that they were ready to take a tough line on even white opponents — demonstrating students were whipped and shot at on two consecutive days in Cape Town — a provincial supreme court here yesterday overturned key government emergency laws.

The laws prohibit campaigns for the release of political prisoners and curbing freedom of the press and speech.

The ruling by Natal province Supreme Court Justice R.N. Leon was the second major blow in five days to the government's state-of-emergency restrictions on news reporting and opposition activity.

On Friday, a separate Supreme Court panel in Natal overturned prohibitions on reporting about unrest and security force action.

The regulations that Leon overturned were imposed April 10 by police commissioner Johan Coetzee. The rules banned any public appeals for

the release of detainees.

They immediately prompted protests and threats of defiance from opposition politicians and clergymen.

In another court case, involving nine black men associated with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), ANC leader Nelson Mandela was quoted, for the first time since he was jailed for life in 1964, on why he turned to violence to overthrow white rule in South Africa.

The 68-year-old leader's views were relayed to the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court Monday by lawyer Alan Magid, defending Sibus Isondlani, one of the nine men convicted of terrorism.

Magid had asked for Mandela to give evidence in mitigation personally, but was only allowed an interview with the black leader in Cape Town's Pollsmoor Prison to take his evidence.

Mandela said Pretoria had rejected or ignored ANC appeals for talks in 1952, 1957 and 1961. By 1961, small groups of inexperienced people

were beginning to plan acts of violence, he said. Mandela said he recommended that the ANC establish a military corps because these groups would be better controlled and disciplined if they were not left to their own devices.

This recommendation was based on Mandela's belief that "non-violence or passive resistance had no hope of persuading the government to change course," Magid said.

The nine men were given jail terms ranging from six to 12 years. They shouted "Viva Mandela" and "Viva ANC" after the sentences were handed down.

Meanwhile, police shot at students, hitting two, in a demonstration Monday at the University of Cape Town.

University of Cape Town principal Stuart Saunders said last night that a number of students were injured when police opened fire on a campus protest against South Africa's weekend raid into Zambia.



Salvadoran university students beat on the entrance of the U.S. embassy in San Salvador during a demonstration against U.S. intervention in the country. (AFP telephoto)

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Italian government falls

ROME (AP). — Christian Democrat premier Amintore Fanfani, as he had hoped, lost a vote of confidence in parliament yesterday, paving the way for early general elections he says are the only solution to Italy's 8-week-old political deadlock.

The chamber of deputies defeated Fanfani's minority government by 240-131 and 193 abstentions.

President Francesco Cossiga is expected to dissolve parliament, order early elections and ask Fanfani's cabinet to stay on in a caretaker role through the polls. The elections will probably be held in June, a year ahead of schedule.

Death ferry owners 'fully responsible'

LONDON (Reuters). — Ferry operators Townsend Thoresen say they accepted full responsibility for the March 6 Zeebrugge disaster in which about 200 people are feared to have died.

Divers yesterday resumed their search for bodies on the mud-choked lower decks of the ill-fated ferry but found no more bodies.

Seven Turkish soldiers die in blast

ANKARA (Reuters). — Seven soldiers were killed yesterday in an explosion at a military ammunition depot at Erzurum in eastern Turkey. Six people were injured in the incident.

Death threat to North

WASHINGTON (AFP). — Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, sacked from his post as National Security Council aide for his role in the Iran-Contra fiasco, has received death threats and is under 24-hour protection by navy guards, defence department sources have confirmed. One official said the navy increased security over the weekend because huge anti-Central Intelligence Agency demonstrations were planned. CIA headquarters is located in the same northern Virginia area where Lt.-Col. North lives.

Polisario claims heavy Moroccan casualties

ALGIERS (Reuters). — Polisario guerrillas claimed yesterday to have killed and wounded more than 200 Moroccan troops and shot down a fighter plane in an attack on Moroccan defence lines in the western Sahara.

The Algerian-backed guerrillas made no mention of their own casualties. The attack has not been confirmed by Morocco.

Three killed in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP). — A dozen mortar rounds exploded in three residential districts of Christian East Beirut yesterday and police reported three people killed and eight wounded. A spokesman for the Lebanese forces, the main Christian militia, blamed the barrage on the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Portuguese parliament dissolution recommended

LISBON (AFP). — The Portuguese Council of State, meeting at the request of President Mario Soares, has recommended the dissolution of parliament and early general elections to end a three-week long political crisis.

The centre-right minority government of Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva fell on April 3 when opposition MPs passed a motion of censure accusing the government of manipulating the news and of political patronage.

You must read the new Israeli bestsellers
Duel of Destiny
by Bartram Joseph
(Wimbleton, Waldheim)
and
Raoul Wallenberg Is Alive
by Efraim Mishinsky
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Nato cautious on Soviet missiles

LUXEMBOURG. — The Soviet Union's latest offer, to eliminate short- and medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, is testing the European Nato countries' resolve to present a more unified stance on key defence issues.

Most European governments appear willing to accept the Soviet proposal presented by Alexei Obukhov, Soviet assistant chief negotiator in Geneva on Monday, but a full consensus has been put in doubt by West German hesitation.

Defence and foreign ministers of the seven-nation Western European Union met in Luxembourg yesterday for a special session devoted

mainly to seeking a common response to the Soviet proposals.

Obukhov told a press conference that the Soviet proposals for a treaty on intermediate missiles were based on the agreement sketched out at the Reykjavik summit last November.

This called for elimination of missiles in Europe and reduction of other intermediate-range nuclear missiles (INF) to 100 warheads for each side, to be sited respectively in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and in the U.S.

Obukhov said the Soviet Union would oppose siting of American INF in places such as Alaska, within

range of Soviet territory, and replacement of INF weapons by short-range nuclear missiles (Srinif) in Europe.

The Soviet negotiator rejected any linkage between certain types of nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

While the U.S. and its Nato allies had endorsed the so-called "zero-zero" approach on mid-range missiles, some Western alliance officials have said eliminating the shorter-range arms would leave Western Europe dangerously vulnerable to an assault by superior Soviet conventional and chemical arms.

Congress insists Shultz release 'sex-spy' papers

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — Congressional investigators of the sex and spy scandal at the U.S. embassy in Moscow voted unanimously yesterday to subpoena Secretary of State George Shultz to force him to turn over withheld documents.

In an unusual action, the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee voted 6-0 to compel Shultz to submit the papers, which involve classified cables and other material they say is vital for the espionage probe.

The case involves U.S. marines who allegedly had sexual relations with Soviet female spies and let other Kremlin intelligence agents roam secret areas of the embassy. Subcommittee chairman Dan Rostenkowski, a Florida Democrat, said the documents were being withheld from the investigators and there could be possibly a cover-up.



Xia Jing, 26, who works in the Chinese Ministry of Ordnance Industry, strikes a pose in the Great Wall Cup Body Building competition in Beijing yesterday. This was the first time that bikkinis were worn publicly in the Chinese capital. (AFP)

India's bomb lobby hails nuclear option review

NEW DELHI. — India's decision to review its nuclear options in the face of what it sees as an emerging nuclear threat from neighbouring Pakistan has been generally welcomed by the country's expanding bomb lobby.

But hard-core lobbyists said yesterday they would like India to commit itself more firmly.

On Monday, Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant had told parliament that Pakistan was continuing its nuclear weapons programme "single-handedly" and the threat was forcing India to review its options. He did not spell out the options.

Yesterday, Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro, addressing parliament, said that India was worried at the "non-peaceful dimensions" of the Pakistani nuclear programme and would respond adequately to the "threat."

External Affairs Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari will visit Washington to urge the U.S. administration not to arm Pakistan, he said, without specifying when the visit would take place.

Pakistan President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq was quoted by *Time* magazine last month as saying Pakistan "can build a bomb whenever it wishes." But he later claimed he had been misquoted.

Faleiro said the U.S. was not exercising all its influence to deter Pakistan from "moving in the direction of nuclearization."

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week approved a foreign aid bill which places few controls on Pakistan's nuclear programme.

It voted to remove any harsh conditions on Washington's proposed \$4.02 billion military and economic aid package for Islamabad.

India says it is committed to its policy of nuclear disarmament and would not like to be pushed into changing its stand but national security came first, Faleiro said.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but says its nuclear programme is dedicated to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. (AFP, AP)

Sri Lanka calls off air raids

COLOMBO. — The government yesterday ordered a halt to military air raids on Tamil militants in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, a senior Foreign Ministry source said.

Sri Lankan diplomatic sources said India has been applying pressure for an end to the raids. India has 50 million Tamils in the south and serves as exile headquarters for Tamil separatist guerrilla groups.

"All air raids have been ordered halted in the north as of today, Tuesday," said the Foreign Ministry source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi warned Sri Lanka on Monday not to seek a military solution to its ethnic conflict with Tamil insurgents.

The government of President Junius Jayewardene, however, has been attacked by Buddhist monks and militant students demanding it take tougher action against the rebels or resign.

"If terrorism is not defeated before the next general election, which is due in 1989, I may hold a referendum to extend the term of the parliament," the president told a rally in the southern city of Karadeniya last Sunday.

Sirima Bandaranaike, a former prime minister and leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), the main opposition group, vehemently criticized the president's remarks.

"This is ridiculous," she said in an interview. "The police have been anxiously waiting for an election to throw out this corrupt government which has already robbed the people of their vote."

The SLFP leader said it was preposterous for Jayewardene to say no elections would be held until terrorism is eliminated.

"You cannot eliminate terrorism. The British government has tried to do that for years in northern Ireland, but failed," she said. (AP, Reuters)

'Genetic manipulation' of plants

Breakthrough to new rice

By ROBERT DEL QUIARO
LONDON. — New rice strains with greatly improved resistance to drought and salinity, will allow the cultivation of high-yield rice possible on marginal or salty land.

This step forward is in the rapidly expanding science of genetic manipulation, whereby the cells of plants and other forms of life are adjusted in the laboratory to improve yields, enhance resistance to disease or otherwise adapt them to human benefit.

Until this advance, genetic manipulation of plants had been applied mainly in horticulture. Such minor crops — in terms of feeding the world — as tomatoes and potatoes have been the main objects.

"But there was a bottleneck in applying this to rice," says Edward Cocking, professor of botany at Nottingham University. "It was impossible to make rice cells amenable to the manipulation of their DNA" — deoxyribonucleic acid, the substance that determines the form and characteristics of all living things.

"There was a lot of talk about applying the cell fusion technique of genetic manipulation to cereals but we couldn't get through the cell wall," says Cocking.

Now, though, researchers have reached the DNA of rice by using special enzymes to degrade the cell walls. Without these, cells of one type of rice can be fused with those from another by the protoplast method. From that comes the breakthrough — the efficient regeneration of whole plants from single cells in culture.

Cocking, who heads the Genetic Manipulation Group in his Botany Department at Nottingham, emphasizes: "We haven't yet obtained a completely new variety of

rice, tolerant of salinity or drought, but we do have a firm foundation for progress in that direction through a new range of work."

"Now we can carry out experiments to transfer genes from species of wild rice to cultivated rice." In this way, the high-yielding cultivated rice will acquire the resistant qualities of wild types.

The group at Nottingham, the only one in Britain of its kind, is cooperating in this work with the Rockefeller Foundation, which is using laboratories in Europe, the U.S., China and Japan — and the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. The Nottingham group receives finance from the British government's Overseas Development Administration.

The most immediate effect of the new strains would be to make cultivable large areas of land now too dry or too salty for rice. Apart from the advantage in this for countries chronically short of food, it should give whole regions much more flexibility when they need more food in particular places at particular times, Cocking points out.

Such high-yield rice will also be a boon to cultivators of low-lying coasts subject to flooding by the sea, as in West Africa.

Also, the new potential for genetic manipulation of rice may well offer bigger crops where cultivation has long been successful. Declines in richness of soil could be offset, disease staved off, and water now required for rice diverted to other uses as the cereal was adapted to need less irrigation.

London Observer Service

Soviets rap U.S. move against Waldheim

MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union sprang to the defence of Austrian president Kurt Waldheim, condemning as an unfriendly act the U.S. decision to bar him from the United States because of his alleged involvement in war crimes.

"The Washington authorities have undertaken an unfriendly act," the official news agency Tass said. "The basis for the refusal was the fact that, during World War Two, Waldheim was called to military service by the Hitlerites in annexed Austria and served in the Wehrmacht as a translator," Tass said.

"It is well-known that, as UN Secretary-General, Waldheim actively worked for a Middle East settlement, and this angered Zionist circles in the United States, who have recently mounted a provocative campaign against him."

Many other countries remained reticent, although officials in Britain and Israel said they did not have enough evidence about Waldheim to move against him.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that the U.S. had acted rightly in deciding on the ban.

Speaking during his visit to France, Shamir said the move "was not surprising. The American admini-

nistration did the right thing," he added.

But a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said in Jerusalem that although Israel had collected evidence on Waldheim's wartime past, it was insufficient to start court proceedings or to prevent him from entering the country.

Britain would extend "normal courtesies" to Waldheim if he wanted to visit the country, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"If President Waldheim were to come to this country, I am sure the position is that we would accord him the normal courtesies," the spokesman said.

Britain's position was that "the allegations against him have not been proven, and that he was democratically elected. 'We are not aware of any new evidence. If there was any, we would be prepared to consider it.'"

Spokesmen for several other European governments said it was not for them to pass judgment on the affair. A Dutch foreign ministry official said for instance: "The problem will come up if or when Waldheim asks to be invited to our country. Up to now that is not the case."

(Reuters, AP)

Iran claims advance

NICOSIA (AP). — Iran claimed its forces drove deeper into the mountains of northeast Iraq yesterday, capturing 300 square kilometres and killing or wounding 4,000 Iraqis in a 5-day-old offensive.

Iraq said in an unusually terse communiqué that its 1st Army Corps repelled a small-scale assault by two regiments on Monday night. But it claimed 1,500 Iraqis were killed or wounded and 66 vehicles destroyed with "intense fire."

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a military spokesman in Baghdad as scot-

ting at the Iranians' "imaginary victories." He declared: "No major military activity took place in this sector over the last two days except for two abortive enemy attempts to approach two border hilltops."

But detailed Iranian reports from the battlefield in Sulaimaniyah province, part of Iraqi Kurdistan, said yesterday that the Iraqis were abandoning the garrison town of Mawat.

The thrust into Kurdistan is the latest in a recent string of Iranian offensives apparently aimed at keeping the Iraqis off balance.

POLLARD

(Continued from Page One)

present a classified report on the security situation in South Lebanon, and was asked to retract, he said that the Knesset had permanent rules governing the work of the intelligence sub-committee, like all the other committees and sub-committees.

"The sub-committee on the intelligence and security services has no authority to draw conclusions with regard to persons at the operational echelon or any other echelon," Rabin said.

"In a Knesset committee there is no way of protecting the rights of individuals should they be threatened. A Knesset committee has no right to assume judicial powers, or to rule what only a judicial body may rule with respect to the operational and political echelons."

"You cannot accuse me of not cooperating fully with the sub-committee," Rabin said. "I appeared whenever I was asked to come, and I answered all the questions. But politicians are not judges. I have heard rumours from members of the full committee about the way sub-committee members differentiate between the period before the national unity government and the subsequent period, with respect to ministerial responsibility. The political considerations inside the sub-committee are most interesting," Rabin said.

Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement), commenting on Rabin's refusal to retract, said that the agitation of the two ministers was an indication that they bear responsibility for the Pollard affair.

Elazar Granot (Mapam) said that the sub-committee's lack of power, as Peres and Rabin had sought to stress, was the reason why his party objected to the Pollard affair being studied in the sub-committee.

David Magen (Likud) a member of the sub-committee, rebuked Rabin for his offensive language on Monday night, and said he could only infer from Rabin's and Peres's abuse, that they would prefer to testify before a judicial commission of inquiry.

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Survey shows 'erosion' in young adults' attachment to Israel

Most U.S. Jews: OK to criticize Israel publicly

By WALTER RUBY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK. — A substantial majority of American Jews consider public criticism of the Israeli government to be acceptable, and 40 per cent say they are sometimes troubled by Israeli government policies, according to a nationwide survey released last Friday by the American Jewish Committee.

The survey, of 1,133 American Jews, also showed that: American Jews under the age of 40 seem to be slightly less attached to Israel than their elders; Orthodox Jews are far more involved with Israel than Conservative and Reform Jews; and the percentage of Jews worried that the U.S. may turn against Israel has fallen in the last four years.

The poll was conducted late last year by Steven M. Cohen, professor of sociology at Queens College, and thus offers no inkling as to how the life sentence imposed on Jonathan Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel, may have affected American-Jewish attitudes.

Sixty-three per cent of the sample rejected the view that "American Jews should not publicly criticize the policies of the government of Israel."

An overwhelming 72 per cent agreed that "Jews who are severely critical of Israel should nevertheless be allowed to speak in synagogues and Jewish community centres." At the same time, 38 per cent agreed that "most American Jewish organizations have been too willing to automatically support the policies of whatever Israeli party happens to be in power," but 27 per cent disagreed.

Cohen stressed that the 40 per cent of the sample who said they were sometimes troubled by Israeli government policies were most frequently found among the minority of American Jews who had visited Israel; among those who expressed the highest level of attachment to the state; and among the more religiously traditional.

The survey found that about 60 per cent of American Jews could be seen as "at least moderately attached to the Jewish state." Sixty

per cent said they knew an Israeli personally; 61 per cent said they would regard Israel's destruction "as the greatest personal tragedy of my life," and 63 per cent viewed "caring about Israel" as "a very important part of being a Jew."

According to Cohen, Jews under 40 scored somewhat lower on attachment to Israel than did older age groups. He observed: "These findings constitute some evidence — although still weak at this point — of a slight erosion in the intensity of young adults' attachment to Israel as compared with their elders."

Fifty-seven per cent of Orthodox Jews had been to Israel, with 34 per cent of them at least twice. By comparison, only 41 per cent of the Conservative Jews had visited Israel and only 13 per cent of them more than once. Twenty-four per cent of Reform Jews had visited Israel, only seven per cent of them more than once. The Orthodox also outperformed the other two groups on other questions measuring involvement with Israel.

Cohen found that in contrast to the Orthodox and Conservative, Reform Jews appeared less involved with Israel today than four years ago, a finding that Cohen believes indicates discontent with Israel because of perceived control of the country by Orthodox.

Cohen found that the number of Jews who were worried that "the U.S. may stop being a firm ally of Israel" had dropped from 55 per cent in 1983 to 40 per cent in the fall of 1986. But large majorities express concern about anti-Semitism in the U.S., with 74 per cent disagreeing with a statement that "anti-Semitism in America is currently not a serious problem for American Jews." While Orthodox Jews were fairly evenly divided between those who had "favourable" and "unfavourable" impressions of the extreme right-wing Kach leader Meir Kahane, those polled were opposed to him by 7-to-1.

The respondents' favourite Israeli politician, by 10-to-1, was Shimon Peres.

'Avineri was wrong to call U.S. Jews cowards'

Saul Bellow: Israel's use of Pollard was 'reckless'

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. — Nobel Literature Laureate Saul Bellow yesterday decried Israel's use of Jonathan Pollard as a spy, condemning it as "a piece of foolishness and recklessness" that had spurred anti-Semitic sentiments in the U.S. where they had anyway been growing in the past decade.

While Bellow did not think Israel's policies need be guided by concern for American Jews "in whom you have some interest," the government might do a little bit to protect them "from such obvious pitfalls," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Bellow, here for a three-day international conference on his work at the University of Haifa, attended by some 100 scholars and writers from Israel, the U.S., Canada, Britain, Germany and Japan, thought the Pollard case would be exploited by American anti-Semites and provide grist to their "dual loyalty" slogan.

He noted that writer Gore Vidal had, even earlier, denounced American Jews as "fifth columnists" and "parasites" in an article in *The Nation*. The attitude, he said, could be

very dangerous, particularly if it were to be widely supported by the blacks. "as it increasingly is."

"American Jews, on the whole, face the price we have been paying for our solid support of Israel over 40 years, and not as cowards. Professor Shlomo Avineri was therefore wrong in calling us cowards," (in a *Jerusalem Post* article after the Pollard sentencing), Bellow said.

He said he had been given an Orthodox upbringing by his European immigrant parents, had gone to *heder* at four and had spoken Yiddish (with which he spiced his answers to the press at lunch yesterday) and English, not knowing the difference until he was six.

But he had stopped short of accommodating his mother's wish that he go to *yeshiva* and is today opposed to Orthodoxy and fundamentalism. But "I am not prepared to be expelled from Judaism because I am not Orthodox or observant," he said. He considers himself a member of the international historic Jewish community.

"I resent the rule of Orthodoxy

and like to live in a land where I can't be reached by its long and fossilized arm," he said, adding that he discerned a danger of Israel turning into a theocratic state, "which is very objectionable."

Though he backed away from questions on Israel and the Palestinians, saying he would not prescribe the peace terms Israel should seek, he did say: "Some things are obvious. The comparative birthrate of Jews and Arabs, the political disequilibrium which has stopped short of total acceptance and equality for the Arabs. He had, he said, discerned "some residual bad conscience" about the treatment of the Arabs, though some denied there was any need for such discomfort.

Bellow, who has relatives and friends here, said he felt "completely at home." He had some preferences for a peace that would assure the survival of the Jewish State as such, and as a sanctuary for Jews everywhere, he added.

Though "beguiled" by Mayor Arye Gurel's suggestion that he live in Haifa for some time, Bellow said he was not planning to come here to



Saul Bellow

write a novel about Israel. "I wouldn't have to live here for that. I wrote an African novel (*Henderson the Rain King*) without going to Africa," he said.

Bellow described his latest novel,

More Die of Heartbreak, due out in June, as "funny." It includes the Chernobyl disaster, and its scientist hero, when asked about it, answers "More people still die of heartbreak than of radioactivity."

'Even Shakespeare is a member' of distinguished Bible authors club

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
HAIFA. — "The prophet Jeremiah and his Scribe, Baruch Ben-Neriya are only two more 'candidates' in a long and distinguished list credited with the authorship of the Bible."

"I do not profess to know whether their chances were increased by having been credited by Prof. Richard Friedman with writing nearly half the Scriptures," Yehuda Radday who teaches Bible and Jewish studies at the Technion, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Friedman, who teaches Hebrew and comparative literature in the U.S., holds that the prophet and his scribe — and not Moses — wrote all five books of the Pentateuch, the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. Friedman makes the claim in a book that is to be published shortly in London and New York.

Radday expressed some surprise at the report that the "rabbinical establishment" in Britain had been deeply disturbed by Friedman's claim.

"If that is correct and if they have been disturbed every time a part of the Bible has been attributed to someone other than the traditionally

assumed author, they would hardly have had time to calm down during the past 200 years," he noted.

Together with other scholars, Radday has made a computer-assisted analysis of the language of the Bible which has led to the conclusion that Genesis must have been written by a single author, and not by several, as some Bible critics have argued.

Radday said Friedman might be complimented for adding two more names to the list of Bible authors. This list also includes the prophet Nathan, the priest Abiatar and Ezra the Scribe, "to name only three" who already "compete" for the honour of having authored a couple of Biblical books each.

Friedman has claimed that Jeremiah and his scribe wrote two versions. He was quoted as saying that in their first version the prophet and his scribe gave the books "happy endings," but that after the destruction of the First Temple and Babylon, Jeremiah found it necessary to rewrite them and adapt them.

Radday questioned how Jeremiah could have "written anything after the period of the Babylonian Exile, as he died when it had barely begun."

He further questioned how the books of Joshua and Judges could be attributed to Jeremiah "when they differ so much in vein and outlook and contradict each other." Nor did he understand "by what linguistic methods Friedman solved the vexing problem of disputed authorship."

But he "fully endorsed" the reported comment of British Bible scholar Professor John Emerson that Friedman's theory, however far-fetched, should not be rejected before scholars had the pleasure of studying it fully when the book appears.

Tongue in cheek, Radday put forward his own "pet Biblical hypothesis" on the language and authorship of the Psalms.

"It was written in English by William Shakespeare," He offered the "proof" that the 46th word of the 46th psalm is "shake," and the 46th word counted from the end of the psalm is "spear" — if one omits the "superfluous and meaningless last 'Selah'."

Why had he picked on psalm 46 for his "theory?" Simply because Shakespeare was 46 years old when King James authorized the English version of the Scriptures.

Tel Nof air base — not such a bad place to live

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post
TEL NOF. — The Israeli Air Force yesterday took the wraps off several "secret weapons" at its base here — the day-care centre, the youth group and the family club.

It's not the kind of revelation that sends tremors through Damascus. But the army wanted the secret kept until now, apparently preferring not to let the enemy know that, in addition to soldiers, Tel Nof is also the home of many families with scores of children.

Families who live on the base say the services are a God-send.

"Our work helps women lead a more normal life," said Rachel Gerstner, who serves as liaison between eight air force bases and Wizo, which operates and subsidizes 53 such projects on those bases.

Until yesterday, Wizo kept quiet about its role in helping families cope with military life. Wizo's involvement on the air bases, began at Tel Nof in 1969 and later expanded to the other bases.

A press tour of the sprawling base revealed amid the barracks-style offices and family quarters bedecked

with laundry, a toddlers' house, with camouflage netting serving as a sun canopy over the front yard. Nearby was a pre-school class where the children — appropriately enough — were busy designing paper planes.

But the main beneficiaries are probably the parents, who pay NIS 130 a month for day care at the centres, which receive a 30 per cent subsidy from Wizo. That compares with the more than NIS 200 a month charged at many day-care centres in the civilian sector.

One Tel Nof officer, who is the mother of two children aged one and five, praised the day-care centres for freeing her to concentrate on her duties.

"The nursery is a big help. I don't want to leave the base because outside I won't find the same care."

The day care centres, which have six levels, for children up to age 6, also enable student and working spouses of air force personnel to pursue their studies and careers.

Wizo also organizes youth clubs for older children and provides those who need it with psychological counselling.

Dutch Labour Party leader:

Palestinian issue, arms sales, harm ties

By DVORAH GETZLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Holland's traditional close ties to Israel and the warmth many Dutchmen feel towards Israel face the danger of erosion because of a "growing concern" about Israel's attitude to the Palestinians and, more recently, its arms sales to South Africa, according to the Dutch Labour Party leader Wim Kok, who yesterday wound up a visit here as guest of the Foreign Ministry.

Kok, 48, took over the leadership of his party last June.

He spent the first nine months as leader of the opposition in the Dutch parliament "doing my homework." This was his first trip abroad and, significantly, it was combined with a visit to Egypt that culminated in a drive through Sinai into Israel.

The Egyptian leadership, he said, was taken by surprise by PLO leader Yasser Arafat's unification move during the Palestine National Conference meeting in Algiers.

"It caused genuine concern as a possible step backwards from an international peace conference."

"All the top leadership with whom I met made it quite clear that they very much favoured such a conference," Kok said, noting the sober examination underway in Egypt on how best to ensure that any such peace meeting creates its own momentum and provides the framework for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

"I left before the PNC had said anything about PLO relations with Egypt, but Osama el-Abaz and Butros Ghali made it clear to me that they would not react favourably to any PLO condemnation of the peace agreement with Israel. They regard that as their internal affair."

How do the Egyptian view the peace agreement thus far?

"They see it as a stage along the road to further normalization of relations," Kok said.

Kok was intrigued by the "two



Mayor Teddy Kollek draws the attention of Dutch Labour leader Wim Kok to historical maps of Jerusalem and Israel, printed in Holland, at the mayoral office.

voices" of the Israeli government, though, he said, it wasn't surprising given that the 1984 election had produced a result that "condemned the two major parties to live together."

Even to an outsider, he said, the deep political divisions within Israeli society were clear. Equally obvious, he felt, was the reluctance most people had to go to early elections.

Referring to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's comments last week denying the security value of certain settlements in the territories, Kok noted that they pointed up the conflict within the country.

"When you go into something like

coming steadily more entrenched."

Holland alone, he said, couldn't contribute much, though he didn't underestimate the role it might play in mediating between Russia and Israel, whose interests it represents in the Soviet Union. But within the European Community, he said, it could and would play a role in encouraging any moves towards a peace conference.

"Of course we would have to feel that it would lead to acceptable results, and one can never quite predict results. But no opportunity in that direction should be lost."

Israel's position since 1967 has increasingly put many of his compatriots in a dilemma. "We want to see a secure Israel, but we also want to see a solution of the Palestinian problem."

Kok chose his words carefully and carried on: "The way in which various Israeli governments have related to the Palestinians has certainly raised many questions in Holland. That's why we're so concerned that Shimon Peres's effort to get talks going be given all the support we can give it. Maintaining the status quo, we feel, will ultimately prove dangerously regressive and lead to war."

The Dutch labour leader, a major campaigner for economic sanctions against "South Africa's white minority regime," notes that many of his compatriots are angry at Israel's arms sales to Pretoria.

He used his visit here to push the case for a harder Israeli line, especially on weapons, and said he had been encouraged to note that a government committee report was due next month with recommendations on how to limit further contacts.

"I understand that there won't be any new arms contacts with South Africa, and that's some progress."

"And it's in Israel's best interests, too. No one in my party can understand how Israel continues such sales to that regime. It has damaged Israel's standing in the international community."

Moran 'critical but stable' after transplant

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — Four-year-old Moran Kadush was in "critical but stable condition" yesterday after a six-hour liver transplant operation.

The transplant, carried out in the early hours of yesterday morning by British surgeon Sir Roy Calne at

Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, was described as a success. But doctors said that the next 48 hours would be crucial for Moran.

Moran has regained consciousness since the operation, but she is being kept in the hospital's intensive care unit. The hospital said that there was a possibility of her body rejecting the organ.

Moran was yesterday visited by her parents, who were said to be pleased by the outcome of the operation and grateful for the generosity of those who gave money to pay for the transplant.

Passengers on Moran's El Al flight to Heathrow last Wednesday raised NIS 115,000 towards her medical costs.

Chile peak victims to be buried tomorrow

BEN-GURION AIRPORT. — The bodies of two young Israelis killed in a climbing accident on a Chilean peak last week are due to arrive here this evening.

Gilad Borenstein will be buried tomorrow in Beersheba. Amir Barkan's funeral will take place at Kibbutz Megiddo. Both were 23. (Hem)

You are invited to visit an IDF camp, an Israel Aircraft Industries plant, a Military Industries plant, a REFA'EL exhibition, or one of the Ministry of Defence Museums, or watch a parachute jump

on Independence Day, Monday, May 4, 9.00 a.m. — 2.00 p.m.

Army Depots

Kiryat Shmona, Shlomi, Katerin, Ma'alot, Ramat Yishai, Goren Forest, Nahariya, Afula, Givat Olga, Kiryat Ata, Jula, Maabarot, Barya, Ramla, Kochav Yair, Menachem Yehuda Regional Council, Mevaseret Zion, Etzion Block, Ammunition Hill, Ma'alot Ephraim, Ashdod, Katif Block, Eshkol Regional Council, Sderot, Arad, Beersheba, Mizpeh Ramon, Netivot, Ofakim, Dimona, Yeroham, Mercar Sepir, Ein Yabov

IDF Camps

* Northern Command — Shimshon Camp (Golan Junction)
* Central Command — Neve Ya'acov Base, Ennaseel Camp
* Southern Command — Natan Camp, Ein Yabov Camp
* Navy — Haifa (Gate 3, entrance in Rehov Ha'atzma'ut, near the Customs House)
Ashdod
Elit (eve of Independence Day only, 8.00 p.m. — 12 midnight)

Ministry of Defence Museums

* Hagana Museum — Elshu Golomb House, 23 Sderot Rothschild, Tel Aviv. The history of defence in Eretz Yisrael, from the Hagana till the establishment of the Israel Defence Forces. Films will be screened.
* Etzel Museum — Charles Clore Park, on the outskirts of Jaffa. The Museum contains a corner dedicated to the memory of the members of Etzel who fell in the liberation of Jaffa, Pessah, April 1948.
* Beit Hagdudim — At Hayati
The story of the Jewish battalions in World War I. Films will be screened.
* The David Escobedo Museum of Illegal Immigration and the Navy — 204 Albany Rd., Haifa. The story of illegal immigration, 1934-1948, and the development of the navy.
* The Hashomer Museum — Kfar Gadi. The story of Bar-Giora and Hashomer — the first security guards in Eretz Yisrael. Films will be screened.
Entrance to the museums free.

* Israel Armament Development Authority

Defence Plants

Israel Aircraft Industries plant — Beersheba on its 20th anniversary

On show:
* Equipment produced at the plant: troop landing craft, anti-aircraft guns, aeronautical assemblies
* Selection of equipment from other IAI plants
* IDF exhibition: Civil Defence (Hag) equipment

* Military Industries Plants, Tel Aviv

Derech Hashalom
* Visit production lines on which weapons are made by modern methods and sophisticated technologies
* Exhibition of equipment made at the plant

* REFA'EL Exhibition — Israel Armament Development Authority

Hatzor Hagilit — at the Matnas

* Sophisticated equipment on show: air-to-air missile, anti-missile missile, electronic fighting systems, special tank defence equipment, night binoculars, cannon computer, etc.
* Film will be screened showing the above equipment in use, in land, sea and air battles

Parachute Jumps

Nahariya — into the sea, at about 10.30 a.m.
Tel Aviv — The Yarkon Park — free fall jump, and aerobics by Fugas, at about 12 noon
Merzitya — Free fall jump, about 2.15 p.m.
Programme changes may occur — please look for announcements.

PLEASE NOTE!
Bring your ID card or passport when visiting a defence plant or army camp. Do not bring cameras, parcels or firearms.

'Success—for U.S. or Japan—means world economic leadership in the coming decades'

Race is on for prize of the next century

QUIETLY, away from the headline battles over trade, some of the best minds in America and Japan are contending for a 21st-century prize, technological leadership in a high-tech world.

At research centres in Japan and the U.S., hundreds of scientists and engineers each day push the "high end" of computer technology, in a race to build the fastest and smartest machines.

"It's a scientific revolution... There's a lot at stake, and the Japanese are very tough competitors," says Joseph F. Traub, who runs the National Supercomputer Centre in Princeton.

For Japan, the race is a crucial test, to see whether its clockwork economy, master of manufacturing technique, can now shift gears and take charge in the most advanced of high technologies.

Success means dominance of global information industries, and that means world economic leadership in the coming decades.

American industrial competitiveness may be on the line, but a more

tangible goal seems to inspire the U.S. effort: to keep several steps ahead of the Soviets in developing futuristic "smart" weapons.

Except for space, "it is more important that the United States retain world leadership in this area than in any other," said Don Fuqua, the recently retired chairman of the House of Representatives' Science and Technology Committee.

The U.S. and Japanese research concentrates on two areas:

- Stepping up the speed and developing new applications for the ultra-fast supercomputers.
- Designing "artificial intelligence" systems, computers that grasp and solve problems with human efficiency.

THE IMMENSE calculating power of supercomputers, which now cost up to \$20 million each, is used by meteorologists to swiftly predict weather, by oilmen to draw up intricate geological maps; by chemists to test molecular combinations in the search for new drugs.

Machines with artificial intelli-



A 'new technology' emerges.

(F. D. Smith)

gence, on the other hand, can recognize images, understand human speech and provide expert advice in areas ranging from medical diagnosis to factory maintenance.

The military uses of both appear boundless. Supercomputers are now used to design nuclear weapons and jet fighters, and to crack intelligence codes and advise commanders how to deploy naval vessels. Computers with artificial intelligence could direct robot tanks or take electronic command of President Ronald Reagan's proposed "Star Wars" missile defense.

putational problem. Supercomputer specialists have now begun to adapt this "architecture" to their high-speed machines.

The Japanese, busy catching up in basic computer manufacturing, did not join in supercomputer and artificial intelligence development until the early 1980s.

They did it in a characteristically Japanese way, announcing crash programmes under the guidance of Tokyo's powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry. More than \$1 billion in Japanese government and corporate funds is going into the effort.

THE U.S. government responded with its own programmes—the Pentagon's strategic computing initiative, projected to spend \$1.2 billion over 10 years—and four university supercomputer centres, financed by an estimated \$600 million from the National Science Foundation, state governments and private industry.

The handful of American supercomputer manufacturers—led by Cray Research and Control Data—still design and build the machines, but hundreds of researchers now linked to the university centres are exploring new uses for them.

In the cool quiet of the Princeton centre's 720sq.m. computer room, a Control Data Cyber 205 silently searches for oil, explodes gases in an automobile engine cylinder, causes galaxies to collide—all through electronic simulation.

"After Galileo and Newton," Traub said, "this is the third great revolution, computational science—

science not in the laboratory, but in the computer."

The Cyber 205 operates at 400 "megaflops"—a speed of 400 million operations per second. By this summer the year-old centre, which is sponsored by a 12-university consortium, will have a supercomputer that will turn out the work at 10 billion operations per second—10 "gigaflops."

Made by a Control Data spinoff company called ETA, that machine will be 250,000 times faster than today's personal computers, so fast it must be kept cool in a liquid nitrogen bath.

ACROSS THE Pacific in Japan, "gigaflop" supercomputers are now being produced by Fujitsu and NEC, two of six giant electronics companies in Japan's "superspeed" project.

The artificial intelligence work, meanwhile, is concentrated at the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology, a think tank of 70 researchers who have taken over one floor of a Tokyo skyscraper.

The director, internationally noted computer scientist Kazuhiro Fuchi, said the institute is grappling with broad theory, not applications. "We are trying to build a new technology... new architecture. From there, industry can find applications," Fuchi said.

He listed possibilities: computer comprehension of the spoken and written word, perfecting language-translation systems, extending data bases to "knowledge bases," a more complex system endowing compu-

ters with common-sense attributes.

Who's ahead in the race? "In computer science, the United States at the moment is far ahead of Japan," said Fuchi. Others agree.

On Supercomputers, specialists say U.S. companies are "light years ahead" in software, the variety of programming needed to apply computer speed to specific tasks.

As for pure speed, one knowledgeable American official noted that the code-cracking, highly secretive U.S. National Security Agency "certainly must have the most powerful machines around."

In artificial intelligence, the combination of a headstart, Pentagon money and the creativity of small high-tech entrepreneurs—a breed rare in Japan—gave the U.S. at least a two-year edge in applications, the experts say.

But some Americans clearly are worried. They remember how a crash programme in the 1970s vaulted Japan into world leadership in semiconductors, the basic components of computers.

"The United States has consistently, but consistently, underestimated the Japanese," said Traub.

Tokyo's science and technology agency reports that in the 1980s the percentage of Japanese national income devoted to research and development caught and passed the U.S. figure—reaching 2.99 per cent, compared with 2.94.

The stakes are high. Analysts estimate the supercomputer market alone could reach more than \$1 billion a year by 1990.

(Associated Press)

Israel's gift to the French gourmet

HOW CAN YOU make goose liver from chicken fat? An Israeli professor of agriculture has done this, bringing a smile to the face of French lovers of *pâté de foie gras*.

Prof. Yisrael Nir of the Hebrew University's agricultural faculty in Rehovot found that he could increase the average weight of a goose's liver by 10 per cent, and shorten the 35-day force-feeding period by two days. He did this simply by adding 2.5 per cent of chicken or goose fat to its diet. In other experiments, he found that adding small amounts of Vitamin C (just 100 mgm. per day per goose) increased the size of the liver by another 8 per cent.

Thanks to Professor Nir, a veteran poultry nutritionist, the export of goose liver is an important source of income for many farming families whose soil is infertile. Israel is able to export all its goose liver to France, because its price is competitive and its quality is considered unmatched. Last year, some 300 tons were exported, an increase of 100 tons over 1985.

Nir, working with two other researchers, Dr. Zafira Nitzan and Dr. Baruch Shalev, also succeeded in increasing the number of eggs laid

in the Welzheim Forest around Stuttgart.

The research programme is expected to continue for at least 10-15 years in order to study long-term damage to trees by acid precipitation. The influence of harmful substances in the air is measured by a ventilator that pumps air from the outside unchanged, filtered or "enriched" with more pollutants, at the rate of 18,000 cu. m. per hour.

FOUR-WHEEL drive in cars is old hat. Make room for four-wheel steering. This year, Honda and Mazda of Japan plan to introduce the first commercial cars with this system.

Four-wheel steering allows you to turn front and rear wheels in opposite directions at low speeds in order to wiggle into tight parking spaces or make easy U-turns. At high speeds, both sets of wheels move simultaneously in the same direction for quicker turns without skidding. According to a recent Newsweek report, the system can be computer-controlled to sense the car's speed and adjust wheel angles accordingly.

Ford, which has no plans to introduce four-wheel steering, worries that it will make people drive faster. Other manufacturers fear lawsuits if something goes wrong and an accident results. But the Japanese are enthusiastic, especially because four-wheel steering—which will add several hundred dollars to the cost of a car—will help them maneuver more easily in their very narrow streets.

Now that under-the-sink garbage disposal units are beginning to catch on in Israel, perhaps the field is fertile for The Beast, a trash compactor designed especially for the carport of private homes. Produced by Phillips Home Products of Akron, Ohio, the \$500 appliance can hold the equivalent of five 80-litre garbage cans. It is very simple to install, merely requiring an electrical socket for plugging in the cord. Municipalities, always short of dump space, should welcome such a garbage device.

A DOMESTIC version of the facsimile machine is now being produced in Japan. All one needs to do is draw a picture or write something on the electric tablet of the device, which sends it to a printer via the telephone. Transmission time, according to *Popular Science*, is just 15 seconds.

ANOTHER handy device, especially for hypochondriacs, is a watch that monitors your pulse. The watchband senses the pulse, and the clock itself warns you if the pulse rate is too fast for your health.

The watch, which also doubles as a stopwatch, sells for \$38 by mail order in the U.S.

What will they think of next? A device that makes espresso coffee in your car.

Hammacher Schlemmer of New York, known for its gadgets, sells the Automobile Espresso Maker for \$79.50. It is mounted on the dashboard and comes with two thermal plastic cups. It can brew two cups of coffee or heat water for tea or soup.

AS ANYONE who does army reserve duty knows, mosquitoes are a big nuisance in camp. You can't escape them, even with sprays and nettings. So the IDF has been conducting an experiment that uses little fish to eat mosquito larvae in standing water near army bases. A South American fish called gambusia has proved very efficient at eating the larvae, and others, including a large fish imported from Burma, have also worked well.



annually by geese from 30 to 100. Previously, goslings were fed mixtures meant for chicks. The scientists found that geese need less amino acid, and by changing the feed found the goslings not only healthier, but less expensive to raise.

SCIENTISTS from five countries, including Israel, are collaborating in the search for tiny neutrinos—the fundamental particles travelling around the earth that have no electrical charge and almost no mass.

Experts from Germany, France, Italy, the U.S. and Israel meet regularly in one or other of the countries to review progress and to make plans for further work. They convened at the Weizmann Institute last week for the Fifth Gallex Collaboration Meeting.

Gallex is the name given to the major international collaboration carrying out an experiment aimed at measuring the flux of neutrinos arriving at the surface of the earth from the centre of the sun. According to the accepted theory about the way the sun produces its energy, there should be a large number of neutrinos traversing the earth, but experiments over the past 15 years have failed to detect the expected flow.

This absence is one of the major puzzles of modern astrophysics, because it means there is a basic flaw in scientists' understanding of how stars work or of the properties of the neutrinos. The actual experiment of measuring neutrinos is being conducted in an underground laboratory beneath the Gran-Sasso mountain in Italy.

THE EFFECTS on forests of pollutants like "acid rain" has been worrying scientists all over the world. Now they can watch trees under controlled climatic conditions, using special chambers 20 square metres in area and seven metres high.

Prototypes of these experimental chambers are already in operation in West Germany, in the southern Black Forest near Muensterland and

All Hypercol stores will be closed on Saturday evening, May 2nd.

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- Jerusalem**
Talpat Industrial Zone
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Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, open till 20.00
- Jerusalem**
Givat Shaul Bet
Sundays through Thursdays open till 20.00
- Be'er Sheva**
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9 "Metz" microwave ovens, Model 610, to be won in a grand draw for all Hypercol customers who purchase 3 "Shahaf" or "Goldfros" products.
In addition, 18 gift packages of "Shahaf" "Goldfros" products will be awarded. The draw will take place on June 16, 1987. Details in stores.
Come and see the "Metz" microwave oven being demonstrated in Hypercol stores.

ה'כרת'כ

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Prices valid until May 3rd.

The Circassians: a tradition of loyalty

Elaine Ruth Fletcher tells of a warrior people, now a tiny minority in Israel.

JUST 10 DAYS ago the Circassian community broke its seven-year-long silence on the conviction of former IDF officer Izat Nafsu on charges of espionage proclaiming their belief in his innocence.

The long silence, however, reflects something of the character of Israel's tiny Circassian community where close-knit ethnic ties, and loyalty to the state are time-honoured traditions.

"Wherever they are in the world, they are very loyal," said Yosef Ginat, a former government Arab affairs advisor who has also done research on Israel's 3,000 or so Circassians. "In Jordan they are very loyal, in Syria they are very loyal, and in Israel they are very loyal."

Nor has the existence of other, larger Circassian communities in Jordan and Syria traditionally posed a security problem for Israel where all Circassian males serve in the IDF, said Ginat.

Circassians from Syria, and the 30,000 strong community in Jordan, generally belong to entirely different tribes with weak ties to Israel's two Circassian settlements.

"Only in the last several years have Circassians from Jordan come to visit Israel," Ginat noted.

The unique character of the long and colourful involvement of the Circassians in the Middle East goes back to the Middle Ages and spans the Abbasid, Mamluk and Ottoman Empires up to the last century, when Israel's modern Circassian settle-

ments were founded.

The Circassians were originally a nomadic people who wandered with herds of sheep and horses across the Caucasus Mountains between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea in what is now the USSR. The mountains are situated just north of Armenia and Georgia, which adjoin the Iranian and Turkish borders. Toward the end of the Abbasid dynasty between the eighth and 11th centuries, Abbasid rulers in Baghdad sought out foreign guards to protect them from internal enemies. The Abbasids "imported" Circassians as their bodyguards, beginning the Islamization of the Caucasus region, says Ori Stendel, a Jerusalem attorney who in 1969 published a prize-winning book, *The Circassians*.

The Abbasid use of Circassian bodyguards spread to other centres of the far-flung empire in Iran and finally Egypt, said Stendel. In Egypt, the Circassians merged into the ranks of imported slave-warriors, or Mamluks, who eventually wrested power from their rulers, said Stendel.

"They would send Egyptian armies to the Caucasus to kidnap young boys of eight or nine years old, teach them Islam and give them a military training."

The Mamluk warriors, often made into eunuchs, were removed from all familial ties. In time they became the strongest army in the Middle East. In 1263 CE, the Mamluks stopped the Mongol advance on the Middle

East in a fierce battle in the Jezreel Valley. They dominated the region until the Ottoman Empire's advance. In the Ottoman era, the Circassian tribes of the Caucasus Mountains, now Islamicized, once again played the role of foreign "police-man" for a Middle Eastern empire. But this time they were used as settlers rather than guards and soldiers. This happened in the late 19th century, following an unsuccessful stand against the advancing Russians, when some 600,000 Circassians still in the Caucasus Mountains fled and sought asylum in the Turkish empire.

"The Turkish sultan received them as refugees," said Stendel. "But it wasn't for humanitarian reasons. He wanted to use them against the empire's enemies in Palestine, Jordan and Syria. The local residents, particularly the Beduin, were considered untrustworthy."

The Circassian refugees were permitted to settle as loyal nuclei on the Ottoman empire's frontiers. That frontier was the desert edge, the geographic battleground where Beduin tribes vied for control of the land with town dwellers and Ottoman administrators.

For that reason, most of the Circassians were settled in eastern Jordan, with only three settlements founded within what are now Israel's boundaries.

IN 1869, just before the First Aliya,

the first Circassians settled in Rehaniya, now a community of some 800 people near Safad. In 1876, another tribe of Circassians founded Kafr Kama, which today has a population of about 1,800 people in lower Galilee. A third village, Khirbet-Circass, was wiped out by a plague in the 19th century, related Stendel.

During the days of the First Aliya there was tension between Zionist olim and their Circassian neighbours over work opportunities on already established moshavim, said Stendel. The Zionists wanted the Circassians, like the Arabs, to be replaced with Jewish labour.

Nevertheless, by 1947 good relations between Kafr Kama and its Jewish neighbours had been established, and Kafr Kama readily sided with them in the War of Independence. Rehaniya, however, was surrounded by Arab villages and thus had traditionally maintained closer ties with Arab culture.

The Hagana supplied Kafr Kama with weapons and the Circassians from Kafr Kama performed a bloodless "conquest" of Rehaniya. The residents of Rehaniya thus quickly threw their fate in with that of the new Jewish state.

In 1956, the Circassians asked David Ben-Gurion to draft them into the IDF, a request that was promptly granted. Today, some 40 per cent of Kafr Kama's villagers serve in the regular army, police, border police and prison service.

Some have attained the rank of Sgan-Aluf (Lt.-Colonel).

Although Moslem, Israel's Circassians have preserved customs and a language that is distinctly part of their mountain past.

"The most important thing is the language," said Ginat. "Children below school age don't know any language other than Circassian." In school, Circassians continue to study their own language. Other parts of the curriculum, formerly taught in Arabic, are now taught in Hebrew.

Circassian marriage rituals are distinctly different from those in the Arab world, said Ginat. Despite the community's small size they try to marry "outside" of the family, unlike Arabs who often prefer to marry cousins. Although boys and girls don't "date" as such, they are allowed to mix more or less freely and choose their own partners.

"In an Arab village you wouldn't see a girl standing at the window of her home and a boy talking to her for an hour," said Ginat, describing what might be a typical Circassian boy-girl encounter.

Abduction of the bride is another well-preserved custom, said Ginat. The bridegroom will "abduct" his sweetheart with a few friends - who act as guarantors that the couple won't actually be left alone together. The girl is held by her "captors" until the father gives his consent to the match.



A Circassian from Kafr Kama in traditional dress.

(Israel Talley)

Arafat leaves door open?

ALGIERS. - PLO leader Yasser Arafat, despite his concessions to hardliners, at the Palestine National Council sessions in Algiers, maintains room for maneuver on important issues, according to diplomats here.

Syrian-based groups forced Arafat to give way on some points as a condition for their return to the fold, but compromises reached on a proposed peace conference, the sensitive issue of Egypt-Israel links and internal PLO changes have left Arafat's hands largely untied, say the diplomats.

Arafat's "moderate" image has been tarnished with the temporary re-election of terrorist leader Abu Abbas to the new executive committee, a 15-member inner cabinet of the Palestinians, "parliament in exile." Abbas was convicted in his absence by an Italian court of masterminding the 1985 hijacking of the liner Achille Lauro.

The extremist group headed by Abu Nidal, which took part in preparatory talks for the Palestine National Council meeting, was excluded from the main session.

The PNC ended its six-day meeting last Sunday with a call to step up military action against Israel in Israeli-occupied territory.

All six factions now regrouped under Arafat after years of feuding publicly oppose attacks outside this area.

The 18th session of the 440-member PNC, whose last meeting in Amman was boycotted by Damascus-based groups, has left a question mark over future PLO relations with Arab states in the moderate and hardline camps.

The final Syrian response to Arafat's victory in winning over Damascus-based factions to attend the PNC sessions has still not been given, the diplomats say.



Reconciliation: Arafat greets Hawatmeh in Algiers.

(AFP)

Egypt withdrew its delegation attending the PNC meeting because of a resolution it considered too critical of Cairo, and then came the closing of the PLO's offices in Cairo.

Relations with Jordan, 70 per cent of whose population is of Palestinian origin, are also ambiguous.

The PLO has cancelled a moribund 1985 joint accord with Amman, but has not rejected the goal of an eventual confederation of two independent states - Jordan and Palestine.

But concern is growing in Amman over the close ties being forged between the PLO and the Soviet Union in the wake of the PLO's decision to end the understanding with Jordan - a step taken by Arafat to achieve reconciliation with dissenting Palestinian factions.

A Jordanian political leader said

the PLO had apparently chosen to "entrust Moscow with the Palestinian card." This could "weaken the role of Arab states directly concerned with the Middle East conflict" in advance of any international peace conference, he said.

Diplomats in Amman said Moscow had worked hard to reconcile the factions in Algiers.

One clear success for Arafat has been the strengthening of his own position as unchallenged leader at the head of a more widely-based PLO, diplomats agree. This gives him some leeway in peace negotiations.

A proposal to insist on an explicitly independent PLO delegation at peace talks was dropped, and instead the delegates in Algiers decided that the PLO should attend any conference on an equal footing with other parties in the region. This allows for compromise on PLO representation in a united Arab delegation or on some other formula Arafat may devise.

However, the PLO stuck firmly to its rejection of UN resolution 242, adopted after the 1967 war and implying recognition of Israel. The resolution makes no mention of Palestinian aspirations to an independent state. (Reuters, AFP)

'Maginot Line' goes up on Morocco's coast

MOROCCO has completed a sixth defence wall intended to cut access by Polisario guerrillas to the Atlantic coast, the commander of the southern zone in the Western Sahara announced last weekend.

Gen. Abdelaziz Bennani said the last section of the 50-kilometre rock and sand wall was recently completed at Guerguerat, on the Atlantic Coast.

The wall, which took two months to build, contains an area of 65,000 square kilometres.

"Since April 16, it has been possible to... definitively chase the enemy from the Atlantic Coast," Bennani reportedly said in a message to King Hassan II.

Guerrillas of the Polisario Front, with headquarters in Algeria, have been fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara since 1975, when Morocco annexed the territory. The guerrillas claim it as an independent state they call the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic.

Morocco and Algeria have at various times over the past decade been near a state of war over Polisario.

To hold off the enemy, Morocco has been building a massive fortified desert wall, which now stretches nearly 3,200 kilometres through the Western Sahara. The newly-completed section pushes the guerrillas eastward, cutting off access to the Atlantic, where in the past they have occasionally struck at the country's commercial or pleasure craft.

Mauritania and other nations, fearing an escalation of the guerrilla war, have charged that the wall, which runs along 220 kilometres of the Mauritanian frontier, infringes on the territory of other nations.

Morocco has downplayed the complaints.

(Associated Press)

'Some wearers seem to be motivated by fashion...'

Back to the veil in Egypt

Sara El-Gammal/Cairo

WOMEN in Egypt are increasingly wearing long Islamic dress, their faces veiled or their hair covered, in a Moslem revival. And businessmen are cashing in on the controversial trend.

Some feminists maintain that women adopting Islamic dress do so for escapist reasons, rather than from strict religious convictions.

"A woman seeks escape in the veil when she feels her worth and identity lie in her body, and not in her intellectual and personal achievements," says Iman Khodary, a feminist and social worker dealing in family planning.

A student at the American University in Cairo blames controversy over the veil on Western cultural influences.

"There is nothing unnatural about a Moslem woman wearing Islamic dress, but it is our society that makes it seem like an oddity," she says.

This student adopted the veil despite the disapproval of her mother and her friends - all of whom wear Western-style clothes. A year later she discarded it.

"People always made me feel like the odd one out. I lost the conviction I started out with," she says.



Islam stipulates that women dress modestly, covering all parts of the body except the face, hands and feet. Women should shun clothes that attract attention but trousers, frowned on by purists, are sometimes worn under long shirts or tunics.

In the streets of cosmopolitan Cairo, one can see various versions of head-coverings, some of which surround the face like a nun's cowl and fall loosely to the shoulder.

Some of the wearers seem to be motivated by fashion as much as by religion. There are coverings that look more like turbans, beaded scarves, just covering the hair, and jaunty pill-box hats covered by silk squares.

A stricter but less common form of concealment, advocated by hardliners, includes a nose-veil or a long

NOT SLOW to spot a business opportunity, Egyptians are opening more shops specializing in day, even-rectangular piece of material fixed to the head-dress and covering the entire face. Eye slits are optional, but gloves are always worn.

ing and bridal wear for the fashion-conscious veiled woman, who has no need to sacrifice sequins and a tailored fit in the pursuit of purity.

Hairdressers are also catching on to the veiling trend.

One salon owner in downtown Cairo has set aside a section of his shop for veiled customers. "More women want their hair done by members of their own sex," he says.

Fashion shows displaying cover-up creations to wealthy audiences have earned the contempt of stricter Moslems.

"Those who are following the whims of fashion will receive the same punishment (on the Day of Judgement) as those who don't cover up at all," said one veiled woman who did not want to be named.

She owns a clothes factory that makes Western-style clothes for boutiques in Cairo's fashionable Zamalek suburb. When she decided to don the veil, she checked with Moslem scholars, who told her she could carry on making such clothes as long as women wore them only in the home.

Shrouded in a flowing black dress with matching gloves and face-piece, she says "This country would not have been doomed if it had adhered to Islam. Islam is the only solution."

Demonstrations and fist-fights broke out last year at Cairo University when the dean of the medical faculty allegedly tore off a student's veil.

The row faded after university authorities ordered students to remove face-pieces on entering the campus. Students are not allowed to sit examinations unless they show their faces as a check against impersonation.

"I have no objections to being religious, but how can a veiled doctor examine a child? That child could become hysterical," a doctor, Mohammed Hawary, wrote recently.

A Western-style beauty pageant to select the first Miss Egypt took place last month in a hotel ballroom swarming with security men because organizers feared demonstrations.

Organizers held the swimsuit parade, mandatory for beauty queens but out of line with Islamic tenets, for judges only at a private villa near the Giza pyramids.

(Reuters)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Liani

THEY TAKE PLEASURE IN PLEASING

The Moriah Plaza, Tel Aviv • The Moriah, Jerusalem • The Ramada Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem • The Aviya Sonesta Beach Hotel, Eilat • The Ramada Continental Hotel, Tel Aviv • The Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv • The Yamit Tower, Tel Aviv • The Moriah Hotel, Eilat •

They know just what their guests appreciate in the morning. They give complimentary copies of **The Jerusalem Post.**



The Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Putting Pharaohs on the map

Robin Lustig/Luxor

AMERICAN and Egyptian archeologists have already found two of four tombs in Luxor's Valley of the Kings which were originally identified by explorers in 1820 but had since been lost again beneath sand and rubble. They believe that their new techniques - which depend on instruments which measure underground magnetic fields - could now lead them to further discoveries.

But despite the excitement which has greeted the new wave of identifying tomb sites, experts here believe the chances of finding more treasure similar to that found in the tomb of the boy-king Tutankhamen by British explorer Howard Carter in 1922 are extremely remote. Nearly all the tombs discovered so far had been looted and stripped of their valuable thousands of years ago.

Professor Kent Weeks, of the Egyptian archeology department at the University of California, who heads a team which is attempting to map all the Pharaonic temples, monuments and tombs at Luxor, said his first aim was to test his new techniques by tracing tombs already known to exist.

"We weren't going after treasure but we wanted to prove that our instruments worked. So far we've found two out of four, which is wonderful."

THE VALLEY of the Kings, a rocky desert area of sand and limestone on the west bank of the River Nile 800 kilometres south of Cairo, was used as a burial ground for Pharaohs and other Egyptian notables between about 1600 BCE and 1000 BCE, a period known to Egyptologists as the New Kingdom. On the opposite side of the Nile are the ruins of the temples of Luxor and Karnak, two of the most impressive ancient ruins anywhere in the world.

Professor Weeks's group, the Berkeley Theban Mapping Project - Thebes was the ancient name for Luxor - are using infra-red sonar and radar devices, as well as magnetometers, which measure variations in the earth's magnetic field. Because the limestone bedrock in the Valley of the Kings contains small particles of iron, the instruments record a measurable dip wherever there is an underground cavity such as a doorway or burial chamber. The team found they obtained their best results by mounting their instruments in a hot air balloon floating high above the desert floor. "From the ground you see pottery, but from the

air you see patterns," Professor Weeks said.

Last January, his team found a tomb some 50 feet away from that of the Pharaoh Ramses II, who ruled from 1290 to 1224 BCE. After 10 days of digging through rubble and rock, they came to the tomb's entrance 15 feet below the surface, a door five feet high and five feet wide.

The tomb is thought to be that of some of Ramses II's many, its huge central chamber, supported by 16 large pillars, is one of the biggest in any of the burial places so far discovered here.

But it is badly damaged and almost entirely filled with rubble, which leads archeologists to doubt whether it still contains any of the fabulous treasure which the ancient Egyptians traditionally left in their tombs. The Berkeley team is due to return to Luxor shortly to make a more detailed study of their find.

The tomb of Tutankhamen is the only one of the 62 so far discovered in the Valley of the Kings which contained all its treasure. Since Tutankhamen was a relatively minor monarch, who died before the age of 20, archeologists have long believed that an intact tomb belonging to a more important pharaoh could yield a far more glorious hoard.

(London Observer Service)

EDUCATION OF A POLISH JEW

Haskell Nordon

An intimate autobiography that sweeps through life in prewar Poland and war-torn Eastern Europe, Russia, Persia, India and Palestine. Here is a moving panorama of scenes of Jewish student life in prewar Warsaw and European universities; the wanderings of refugees through the breadth of Russia; life in Anders' Polish Army and the author's participation in the saga of the "Teheran Children" - of bringing in 800 wartime orphans from Russia to Palestine.

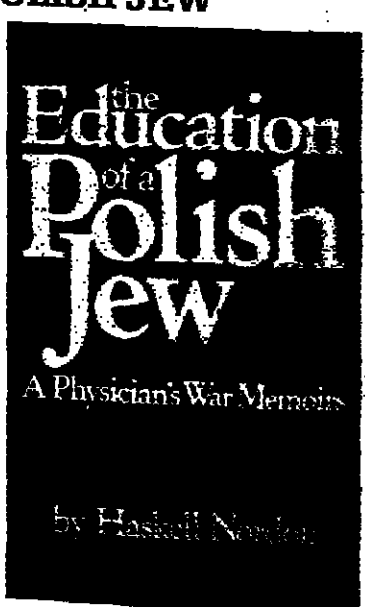
"An admirable and important story. I want to absorb everything in it." Cynthia Ozick

"I am impressed." Eli Wiesel

Published by D. Grossman Press, hardcover, 314 pages, NIS 33.00

To: BOOKS, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Please send me EDUCATION OF A POLISH JEW. I enclose a cheque for NIS 33.00

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Sherf to Elitzur, Lasso to Hapoel!

Post Sports Staff
The post season basketball merry-go-round is in full swing. And the first coach required to make the adjustment to a new club is Zvi Sherf. Sherf, the man who took the national champions all the way to the European Cup final, will now have to find out if there is in fact life after Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Sherf's contract with the champions had not been renewed, and he has agreed to terms with one of the teams challenging to wrest the hegemony from Maccabi, Elitzur Netanya. "I have established a firm bond with Elitzur but I am not leaving Maccabi with any bitterness," Sherf said. "I'll remember fondly both the good times and the hard times that I had with the club."

Following Sherf's departure, Maccabi Tel Aviv's management has yet to name his replacement. The favorite is Maccabi's former coach Ralph Klein, who is known to be keen to return from his assignment in West Germany if the terms are good.

Already, however, the first reshaping of the Maccabi on court line-up has occurred. Howard Lasso is set to move to Maccabi's great city rivals, Hapoel Tel Aviv. After six seasons with Maccabi, Lasso made no bones about the fact that he wanted the chance to start games right through the season, in league as



ON THE MOVE. — Zvi Sherf (Hanoch Gutmann)

well as European play. Final terms are due to be concluded soon between the player and Hapoel.

Despite the move, Sherf will still have some consistency in his life as he continues, for the moment, in the role of national team coach. The national squad resumed yesterday for the first practice game in the long count-down towards the important European championships which will be held in Athens at the beginning of June.

On court this week, Anat Dvir and Igal Elitzur Tel Aviv to their 11th national women's title when they won the second consecutive play-off game over Maccabi Tel Aviv 75-68.

By DON GOULD

It's relatively easy to pick the top players performing in the local basketball league in the recently ended season. We preferred, however, to emphasize that above all the All-Star Team should be a team. The five best players in the country might be just that. But the possibility of their being moulded into a unit was the key element on deciding on the final All-Star selection.

Picked by position and contributions made only during the past season were two further criteria. That means that several players were not considered. Mike Lasso of Hapoel Tel Aviv and Haim Zlotnikman of Hapoel Tel Aviv would normally be high on anyone's list of all-stars. But, during the 1986-7 season they each spent more time in the doctor's consulting room than on a basketball court. Similarly, Mickey Berkovitz's new role as a non-starter effectively eliminated him from contention.

Two further Maccabi Tel Aviv players do not fit into the scheme. Any selection of the ten best players in the country must surely include Lee Johnson. He is overlooked, however, because, by position, two other power forwards are preferred. Likewise, Doron Shefa. As good a season as he had, Jamchee never quite proved that he can play effectively at both ends of the court. He too is thus sidelined as a contender.

A second set of All-Stars confined strictly to Israeli-based players was even more difficult to determine. Only one Israeli started at centre for any of the twelve National League



RISEING STAR and STALWART. — Doron Shefa (left) and Boaz Yannai (Hanoch Gutmann)

teams. Moreover, since local teams do not import point guards as contract players, the same two point guards were selected for both All-Star teams. It's most regrettable that this is the weakest overall position in Israeli basketball; there is simply no excuse for not developing better homegrown talent in this sphere. The coach of the year must be



RISEING STAR and STALWART. — Doron Shefa (left) and Boaz Yannai (Hanoch Gutmann)

Hapoel Tel Aviv's Moshe Weinkrantz. He took his injury-riddled team all the way to the final of the playoffs and even managed to pin a loss on champions Maccabi Tel Aviv. Second choice would be Hapoel Haifa's Yair Varshitsky. The year's "most-disappointing team" award goes almost without thought to Hapoel Holon. They

Jerusalem Post 1986-87 All-Star Basketball Team				
First Team				
Position	Player	Age	Height	Team
Point guard	Amos Frishman	22	1.88m.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Shooting guard	Ron Davis	28	1.98m.	Bet. Tel Aviv
Centre	Lavon Mercer	28	2.08m.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Power forward	Kevin Magee	28	2.04m.	Mac. Tel Aviv
Shooting forward	Curtis Berry	27	2.04m.	Hap. Galil Elyon
Second Team				
Point guard	Avner Shem Tov	26	1.83m.	Hap. Haifa
Shooting guard	Jonathan Dalzel	26	1.91m.	Hap. Haifa
Centre	Terry White	26	2.07m.	Hap. Galil Elyon
Power forward	Roland Houston	26	2.03m.	Hap. Haifa
Shooting forward	Desi Bamore	26	2.02m.	Hap. Holon

Jerusalem Post 1986-87 All Israeli All-Star Team				
First Team				
Position	Player	Age	Height	Team
Point guard	Amos Frishman	22	1.88m.	Hap. Tel Aviv
Shooting guard	Ari Rosenberg	22	1.92m.	Mac. Haifa
Centre	Amir Bino	25	2.07m.	Mac. Ramat Gan
Power forward	Boaz Yanai	34	2.02m.	Hap. Eitan Givat
Shooting forward	Doron Shefa	25	1.94m.	Mac. Haifa
Second Team				
Point guard	Avner Shem Tov	26	1.83m.	Hap. Haifa
Shooting guard	Or Goren	31	1.92m.	Mac. Ramat Gan
Centre	Tomer Steinhauer	20	2.06m.	Mac. Haifa
Power forward	Pini Hozzev	29	1.96m.	Bet. Tel Aviv
Shooting forward	Erez Hazan	25	1.97m.	Hap. Galil Elyon

finished second in regular season play, but were completely devastated in the playoffs. To their bitter dismay they did not even manage to earn a place in next year's Korac Cup.

Along with that, it was no contest in designating Ken "The Animal" Bannister, also of Holon as "the most disappointing player." He came to Israel with impressive NBA press clippings a mile long. Other than breaking a few backboards, he was no threat at all.

Hapoel Haifa, a team that most people had felt would always be struggling to avoid relegation, surprised everyone by clawing their way to the semi-finals of the playoffs and thus gaining a coveted Korac Cup position for next year.

The "Surprise-Player-of-the-Year" award comes from the same source. Avner Shem-Tov, a hustling point-guard who found the three-point shot to his liking and played a key role in Haifa's impressive final showing.

BASEBALL

All Braggs wanted was a pitch to hit...and he got it

NEW YORK (AP). — When right-hander Glenn Braggs went to the plate in the top of the 12th inning on Monday night, he thought he was going to be walked intentionally. After all, two runners were on base, first base was open, left-hander Chuck Finley was on the mound and a left-handed hitter, Greg Brock, was on deck.

"I kept looking behind me to see what the catcher was doing," Braggs said. "When I saw they were going to

pitch to me, I was happy. I wanted to hit in that situation."

Braggs hit a double to the wall in right-center to drive in Jim Gantner and Paul Molitor, snapping a 7-7 tie and leading the Milwaukee Brewers to their 17th victory in 18 games. Braggs later scored on a single by Rick Manning in a 10-7 victory over the California Angels.

Athletics 5, Red Sox 2
Curt Young buried his second straight complete game, stopping Boston on six hits and leading the Red Sox their fourth straight defeat.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Norris Division final: Toronto Maple Leafs 3, Detroit Red Wings 2 in OT (Toronto lead best-of-seven series, 3-1).

Smiley Division final: Edmonton Oilers 4, Winnipeg Jets 2 (Edmonton win series, 4-0).

Young's pitching was backed by Jose Canseco, who had four hits, raising his average to .369, and Mark McGwire, who drove in two runs with a pair of doubles.

Young, 5-1, had five strikeouts and walked none. No other pitcher on the Oakland staff has a complete game this season.

Mariners 5, Tigers 2
John Christensen drove home Phil Bradley with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning as Seattle stopped Detroit 5-2.

With one out, Bradley walked, stole his league-leading 18th base of the season, and scored on Christensen's single to centre to break a 2-2 tie.

After Alvin Davis was walked intentionally, Christensen scored on a single by John Moses. Davis came home on a bloop single.

Peters had tied the game 2-2 in the top of the eighth when Larry Herndon doubled to right and scored on Mike Heath's double to right.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST
W L Pct. GB
Milwaukee 17 11 .607 0
New York 14 14 .500 3 1/2
Toronto 10 18 .357 7
Baltimore 8 11 .421 9 1/2
Boston 8 11 .421 9 1/2
Detroit 8 11 .421 9 1/2
Cleveland 6 14 .300 12

WEST DIVISION
W L Pct. GB
Minnesota 12 7 .632 0
California 11 8 .579 1 1/2
Seattle 10 10 .500 2 1/2
Kansas City 6 9 .400 7 1/2
Chicago 6 10 .375 8 1/2
Texas 6 10 .375 8 1/2
Oakland 7 13 .350 9 1/2
Monday's games: Milwaukee 18, California 7, 12 innings; Oakland 5, Boston 2; Seattle 3, Detroit 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST
W L Pct. GB
St. Louis 10 7 .588 0
Chicago 9 8 .529 1
New York 9 9 .500 1 1/2
Montreal 6 12 .333 4 1/2
Philadelphia 6 12 .333 4 1/2

WEST DIVISION
W L Pct. GB
Cincinnati 14 5 .737 0
San Francisco 14 6 .700 1/2
Houston 12 8 .600 2 1/2
Los Angeles 10 9 .526 3 1/2
Pittsburgh 7 11 .389 6 1/2
San Diego 5 15 .250 9 1/2
Monday's games: San Francisco 7, Atlanta 3; New York 1, Montreal 6; Philadelphia 4.

Monday's games: Milwaukee 18, California 7, 12 innings; Oakland 5, Boston 2; Seattle 3, Detroit 2.

Other winners: Danny Ravid, 22.19, 5km. race (over-50 category); French Schaffner, 24.41 (over-50 category) in 24.41.

Zohava Shmueli in 23.28 minutes was the first woman runner home while the under-19 winner was Shaulan Shalev in 26.55. Hanna Shalev won the over-40 category in 27.55.

The 5 km. race was won by Yehoshua Solomon in a time of 15.13 minutes. He crossed the line together with the under-19 winner Abraham Moshkowitz.

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Shirazi will 'appeal' continued int'l ban

Post Sports Staff

A bitterly disappointed Shlomo Shirazi says he will take his case all the way to the High Court of Justice and even ask for the intervention of President Chaim Herzog following the refusal of the Football Association to reinstate him as a candidate for the National soccer team.

The hopes of the quick return to international soccer for the Betar Jerusalem full back were blighted when the FA threw out his appeal for his ban — imposed in the wake of his involvement with a Netanyahu gang of robbers — to be rescinded. Following a lengthy discussion by the FA, secretary-general Ya'acov Erel declared that Shirazi's application for a removal of the ban had been "premature."

Ironically, a number of European clubs are evidently interested in acquiring the services of the burly running defender.

Beginning next season a play-off system will come into force in the National League. The season will not end once the 26 rounds are completed (the top division will consist of only 14 clubs next year).

The top eight teams will be involved in a play-off similar to that already instituted here in basketball, while the bottom six clubs will fight out a post-season battle against relegation.

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Post Economic Staff
and agencies

The price of silver - which took off like a rocket in early Monday trading to a 43-month high only to plunge hours later taking gold and other precious metals along with it - came in response to the market's rapidly changing appraisal of the dollar. Nevertheless, the overall trend of a declining dollar and rising metal prices looked to be already back in place for the most part yesterday and are likely to stay there for a while.

Silver soared as high as \$11.25 an ounce in New York Monday morning, plummeting to \$7.80 later in the day, off sharply from Friday's \$9.66 close. Gold traded as high as \$478.50 an ounce before sliding \$443.50, down \$19.39 from Friday's close, while platinum futures closed down off the day's limit of \$25 an ounce. Other non-metal commodities similarly felt the silver shockwaves.

"It was one of the most hectic days ever," said Frederick Demler, a metals economist for Drexel Burnham Lambert in New York.

London trading yesterday was considerably quieter, with the afternoon gold fix set at \$453, slightly above opening lows of \$452.75. Silver trading was more nervous, while platinum was substantially lower at \$591.50. Dealers said it was still

LONDON - The British economist John Maynard Keynes once described gold as "this barbarous relic" in a world moving from gold-related commodity money to the modern age of representative money, in other words paper currency.

In today's world of paper money, the U.S. dollar is the most ubiquitous form that exists. Until 1971, it was still officially linked to the price of gold, which meant other countries could redeem their dollars for the metal at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. Without the gold convertibility, the dollar became simply a unit of account, its value to be determined by the faith the market had in it and the U.S. economy. Faith in the dollar generates demand for it, like any other commodity and its price, expressed in its value against other currencies, goes up.

Since 1971, demand, hence the value of the dollar, has gone up and down, but for the past year and a half, for a variety of reasons, the trend has been downward. And that, in turn, has finally led to increased demand for the barbarous relic and other precious metals, which many investors see as a safe alternative when the dollar's future is doubtful.

And yet, the recent upsurge in precious metal prices does not seem to have the same quality as the previous market climb of 1979-80. That gold market explosion saw prices at an all-time high of \$850 an ounce,

Silver takes metals
on roller coaster ride

catching up with the decline of other metals the day before. (New York prices can be found under Foreign Financial Markets, page 9.)

Monday trading began with investors fleeing the dollar to find refuge with precious metals, the traditional hedge against a weaker U.S. currency and anticipated higher inflation. The dollar on Monday had reached the latest of successive post-war lows against the yen, finishing in Tokyo, the first market to close, at 138.10 yen. Investors were concerned that the U.S. currency's woes would spur the Federal Reserve to raise interest

rates. That would have the effect of strengthening the dollar by making investment in the U.S. more attractive, but it would also slow economic growth by raising the cost of borrowing. Continued concerns about a full-fledged U.S.-Japanese trade war added to the dollar's troubles.

But the bearishness about the dollar took a quick about-face after White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater confirmed that the Reagan administration did not favor a further fall in its value. "That statement pumped up the dollar considerably," said Lawrence

Kreicher, vice president at New York's Irving Trust Co.

With the improved dollar, traders decided it was a good time to take profits and moved out of precious metals, leaving the wreckage behind by Monday close. The dollar actually ended the day higher against most major currencies.

In the morning, while metals were still in favour, silver was the top attraction. Dealers said the high price of gold made it less attractive to buy. Silver, by far the cheaper of the two precious metals, is currently down more than 80 per cent from its 1980 peak.

Nevertheless, silver prices had risen steadily over the previous month, gaining momentum over the past week. Traders feared a supply squeeze from Peru's suspension of new exports and its stated desire to work out a marketing agreement with Mexico, the world's biggest producer.

That all made silver vulnerable to the drop that finally occurred Monday. "It was a dramatic setback in an overheated market," said Bill Byers of Bear Sterns in Chicago. "Silver hadn't corrected in a meaningful way since the rally started in late March."

Although a calm returned to the metals and currency markets yesterday, most analysts agreed that the dollar had not yet touched bottom.



Source of the trouble: A bank clerk in Tokyo posts the latest exchange rates on Monday. (AFP)

ANALYSIS/Ian Morley

'Barbarous relic'

way above the present spot price of about \$450.

The scenario then was different from today's - is marked by high inflation, stagnant international growth, revolution in Iran, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, spiralling oil prices and speculative manipulation of the silver market by the Hunt family of Texas. Against that background of events, it would have been surprising had gold done anything other than skyrocket.

So why are we now seeing a dramatic upturn in precious metals? Not Le Ronx, head of research at LHW, one of Europe's largest futures brokerage houses, notes there are few signs of any pick-up in underlying inflation. Rather, he explains, "Gold is responding more to the perception

that world bond and stock markets have topped. To a large extent, it is the strength of gold itself which is responsible for the increase in inflationary expectations in financial markets."

A senior adviser and one of London's most respected bullion dealers at Morgan Bank noted that the money made in the world capital markets over the last few years has created a situation in which too much money is chasing too few goods; witness, for example, the astronomical prices being paid for works of art and antiques. As a result, it takes a very small diversion of funds to quickly drive up the price of precious metals.

It seems that very real inflationary fears from the late 1970s have persisted like the mythical sword of

THE TOP 30

These are the biggest industrial companies in Israel in terms of sales, as compiled by Dun and Bradstreet. The full list of 150 companies was released by D&B this week.

Rank 1987	Rank 1986	Company name	Sales 1986 (millions of NIS)	% change	Exports 1986 (millions of NIS)	No. of workers
1	1	Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd.	1,061,000	4.2	630,000	21,200
2	2	Israel Electric Corp. Ltd.	786,500	0.8	225,000	12,800
3	3	Tadweer Ltd.	619,550	8.4	225,000	2,100
4	4	Tauva	448,853	28.2	272,532	1,907
5	5	Dead Sea Works Ltd.	323,135	1.8	101,100	8,287
6	6	Polgar Industries Ltd.	217,400	15.6	43,301	1,800
7	7	Oil Refineries Ltd.	206,570	(13.9)	700	700
8	8	Dabek Ltd.	173,752	30.8	103,000	2,100
9	9	Elbit Computers Ltd.	171,000	6.9	13,900	2,500
10	10	Elbit Ltd.	160,000	22.6	21,110	1,986
11	11	Teva Pharmaceutical Ind. Ltd.	158,818	54.7	8,180	2,350
12	12	American Israeli Paper Mills Ltd.	145,040	18.8	128,500	1,305
13	13	Elap Elap, Optical Ind. Ltd.	143,200	0.8	127,100	1,400
14	14	Scania Corp.	132,942	0.3	41,800	1,982
15	15	Motorola Israel Ltd.	127,032	11.0	28,835	2,864
16	16	Koor Metals Ltd.	115,813	333	700	1,200
17	17	Nashua Ltd.	115,500	1.9	78,570	1,982
18	18	Malchutim Chem. Works Ltd.	114,000	23.9	62,503	1,982
19	19	Elscint Ltd.	113,321	(21.8)	19,500	1,830
20	20	Telrad Ltd.	108,800	12.8	57,035	525
21	21	Haifa Chemicals Ltd.	96,600	18.2	5,833	2,124
22	22	Osem Food Ind. Ltd.	90,400	31.2	36,300	1,181
23	23	Elap Elap, Optical Ind. Ltd.	89,588	(17.8)	8,307	1,182
24	24	Elbit Ltd.	88,010	99.6	87,852	325
25	25	Luz Industries Ltd.	83,000	27.7	18,008	2,440
26	26	Delta-Galil Ind. Ltd.	79,488	(22.4)	51,448	1,885
27	27	Kitan Ltd.	78,000	2.8	48,500	1,800
28	28	Solam Tire & Rubber Co.	77,000	41.3	500	1,200
29	29	Tempo Beer Ind. Ltd.	77,000	41.3	500	1,200

Leumi (UK) thrives amid parent's ills

By DAVID HOROVITZ

LONDON - David Efrima says that the past four or five years have seen Leumi (UK) firmly establish itself as the financial centre of the world. And, as general manager of Bank Leumi (UK), the urbane soft-spoken Efrima has competed with some success for the increasing volume of business coming to London.

"We get our share of the business, although there is very strong competition between the banks here, particularly since the elimination of exchange control regulations and the advent of 'big bang,'" Efrima told *The Jerusalem Post* in an interview last week.

"Clearly, though, we need more capital," he says. That will come with a second share issue, later this year. Leumi (UK) recently increased its capital by 9 per cent, by means of a rather innovative arrangement with a firm called CP Holdings.

CP Holdings acquired by subscription 510,000 new ordinary shares in the bank at a price of 360 pence each. In return, Bank Leumi has acquired

a new board member, CP Holdings Chairman Bernard Schreier.

The CP Holdings deal has been one of the highlights of what Efrima describes as an excellent year for the bank, notwithstanding the battering its Israeli parent company has taken.

Leumi (UK) is an independent bank, Efrima stresses, that has been operating in Britain since 1902 and with shares traded on the London Stock Exchange since 1963. It is only since the 1974 move to its present head office on Woodstock Street, however, that the bank really started expanding in Britain.

Leumi now has six branches in London and another in Leeds, and, says Efrima, it is looking at sites for possible further expansion.

"We are, perhaps, near the limit for London. I don't think there's room for more than one more branch. But we are hoping to open in other cities as well," he says.

In the meantime, Leumi is seeking to widen the range of services it offers its customers in all areas of banking - retail, corporate finance and trade finance. The clientele, he says, is still predominantly Jewish, "but the percentage of non-Jewish customers has started to increase over the last three years."

Efrima has been with Leumi, almost from the day he graduated from university, starting as a trainee in Jerusalem, moving on eventually to manage the bank's Jerusalem main branch and later the 13 branches in the West Bank. He misses Israel, and says he won't be too sorry to go back when his term here is over, but he understands and supports the bank's policy of appointing an Israeli boss for its British operation.

"That's not to say this will always be the case," he adds, "but someone with an Israeli banking background obviously has a better understanding of Israeli-British trade and a better knowledge of the Israeli markets."

That experience has evidently helped Efrima, as Leumi (UK) this year again posted increased profits - \$2.3 million, compared with 1985's \$1.5m.

He attributes the success to an intelligent and committed workforce, where emphasis is placed on maximum face-to-face contact with clients and a minimum of red tape.

That approach, says Efrima, has allowed business to boom even while the company's image back home was being tarnished.

Shipping freight rates frozen 6 more months

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA - Shipping freight rates between Israel and Europe will remain frozen till the end of the year, adding six months to the previous agreement reached by the Shippers' Council announced Sunday.

The new freeze agreement was reached here following protracted negotiations between the shipping conferences, which demanded a rise in rates, starting July 1, and the

Shippers' Council, which opposed it.

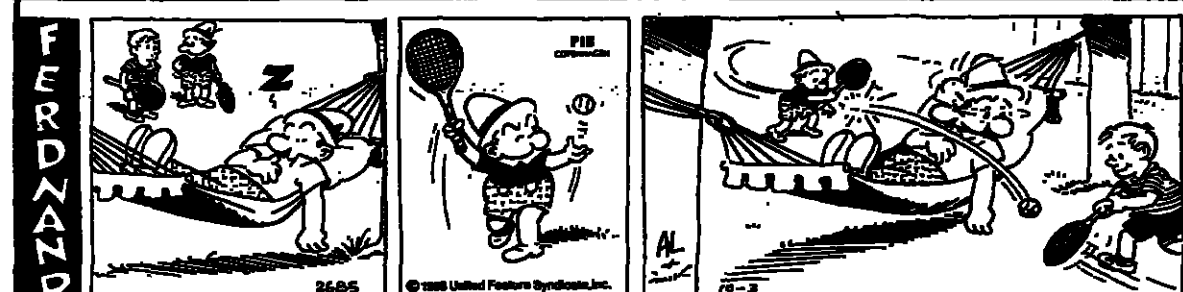
The freight rates have been frozen since April 1986, when they were raised by 3 per cent on import cargoes and 1.5 per cent on exports by mutual agreement between the conference and the council. They have been subject to half-yearly reviews, but the council has managed to keep the freeze in force since then.

The Council argued that last year, Israel's importers and exporters paid \$1 billion in freight charges and that

any rise on the European lines would result in similar increases on other routes too.

The situation is to be reviewed again in October.

Meanwhile, the shipping "pool" of companies, headed by Zim Navigation Co., which has unified their freight rates on the European lines, announced a 40 per cent reduction on the transport of containerized goods between Israel and Italy.



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Magen David Adom

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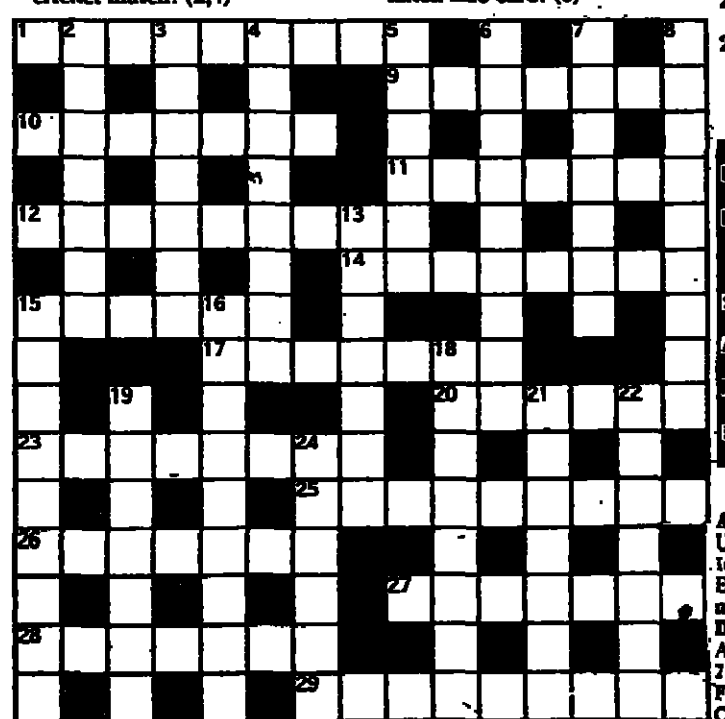
Ashdod 41333 Jerusalem 523133
Ashkelon 23333 Krayot 34444
Bat Yam 551111 Krayot Shimon 4424
Beer Sheva 74767 Nahariya 923333
Carmiel 988555 Netanya 22333
Dan Region 781111 Petah Tikva 9231111
Eilat 7233 Rehovot 451333
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Kupat Holim Information Centre, Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CROSSWORD

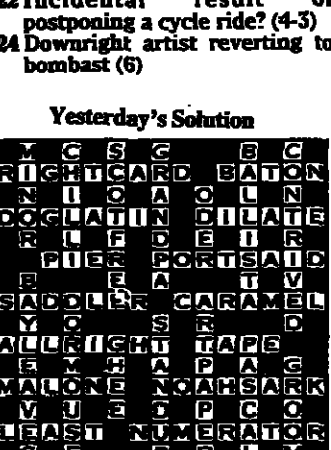
ACROSS

- 1 Heavy stability the titan has to face (5,4)
- 9 Horace Walpole's down-at-heel Italian castle (7)
- 10 Hidden characteristic of any Celt, maybe (7)
- 11 "Round the ... bole are in tiny leaf" (Browning) (3,4)
- 12 Prosper in the field of diplomacy? (3,2,4)
- 14 We agree to see this with someone else (3,2,3)
- 15 One can't be certain to do it (6)
- 17 Handsome young man inscribing a poem by Shelley (7)
- 20 Doing nothing right in a big cricket match? (2,4)



DOWN

- 23 It's heard as some conflict! (5,3)
- 25 Make a big fuss about things, as Adam and Eve had to do (5,4)
- 26 Frenzied bard holding crude railway coupling (4,3)
- 27 Invented work? Don't you believe it! (7)
- 28 Take too much time to ravage a country? (7)
- 29 Exactly how the artist portrayed his subject? (2,3,4)
- 2 A youngster taking me inside a place on the coast of California (7)
- 3 Burns no more leaves, apparently (4,5)
- 4 Reluctant to support a child taken into care? (8)



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Choral, 4 Reefs, 8 Ukase, 9 Release, 10 Chindit, 11 Idol, 12 Hog, 14 Unit, 15 Rude, 18 Elk, 21 Luck, 23 Indulge, 25 Topmost, 26 Regal, 27 Horse, 28 Snatch.
DOWN: 1 Crunch, 2 Oration, 3 Anecdote, 4 Rule, 5 Eland, 6 Steele, 7 Truth, 13 Gridiron, 16 Delight, 17 Flitch, 19 Kinky, 20 Wealth, 22 Caper, 24 Dose.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Masticated
- 4 Cut up
- 8 Canadian tree
- 9 Surviving trace
- 10 Valiant
- 11 Observed
- 12 Weep convulsively
- 14 Paradise
- 15 Facile
- 16 Afternoon meal
- 21 Hop kilt
- 23 Orders
- 25 Baise
- 26 Wear away
- 27 Lowest point
- 28 Worships

DOWN

- 1 Light drama
- 2 Set forth in detail
- 3 Large pecked bird
- 4 Charity
- 5 Hold forth
- 6 Range
- 7 Beseeches
- 13 Favour
- 16 Aid
- 17 Grave
- 19 Viper
- 20 Evaluate
- 22 Rate
- 24 Brace

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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK

Improvement seen in 1st quarter

Mizrahi ended 1986 in red

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — United Mizrahi Bank lost a net inflation-adjusted NIS 23 million in 1986, the result of heavy write-offs for bad debts and the need to write down the bank's overvalued investment in its Tefahot mortgage subsidiary, the bank said yesterday.

In 1985, on an equivalent basis, Mizrahi made NIS 8.4m. in net profits. Indications for the first part of 1987, however, show that Mizrahi is set to make a major turnaround. Based on preliminary figures for the year so far, Mizrahi officials estimated at yesterday's press conference that the bank would make a higher profit in 1987 than in 1985, even after setting aside all the necessary provisions.

Mizrahi's new top brass — chairman Yitzhak Yager, managing director Michael Zivner and board member Eliezer Sheffer — all stressed that the bank's disastrous performance last year was caused by exceptional one-time factors and that on an ongoing operating basis the bank was profitable.

To this end, Mizrahi adopted an unprecedented format for presenting its profit and loss account. It began with an operating profit of NIS 102.2m. (1985 NIS 143.3m.), from which it deducted NIS 69.1m. (NIS 47.2m.) for bad debts, NIS 12m. (NIS 16.8m.) for the cost of the loans it took to buy its own shares during the bank share "regulation," NIS 17m. (NIS 17.3m.) as a charge against the excessive amount invested in Tefahot above its inherent value, and NIS 23.1m. (NIS 19.7) for depreciation.

All of these items, according to Mizrahi officials, were extraordinary or non-recurring. The huge loan-loss provisions are the result, they claimed, of the very high real interest rates of 1985-86 and the bank-rupcies they caused. The loans that financed the bank shares will be

Bank considered one-time write-off on Tefahot unit

The Jerusalem Post has learned from well-placed banking sources that Mizrahi's management considered writing-off its entire excess investment in Tefahot Mortgage Bank in its 1986 accounts, instead of spreading it out over 10 years, as it has committed itself to.

This dramatic move would have created an enormous one-time loss of over NIS 100 million on this item alone, bringing the bank's net loss for the year to over NIS 130m.

The move would have rid Mizrahi of the need to reduce profits over the next seven years because of the Tefahot investment. The bank would then have been able to show very large profits on its shrunken capital base in the coming years.

The idea was rejected on the grounds that a single massive loss might have been misunderstood and undermined confidence in the bank at home and abroad.

repaid in October 1988 and will cease to weigh on profits thereafter, while the Tefahot write-down will be spaced over 10 years.

However, no other bank has adopted this accounting technique. The normal procedure is to net these factors out of operating earnings, with the gross pre-tax position presented after adjusting for them. Had Mizrahi followed this procedure, it would have shown a pre-tax loss of NIS 19.1m., compared with a profit of NIS 42.4m. last year.

The group's tax bill amounted to NIS 3.7m. in 1986, compared with NIS 30.9m. in 1985. Other items, including NIS 1m. of extraordinary

charges from the sale of assets, brought the total loss to NIS 23m.

Mizrahi's own position was much better than those of the group as a whole. Its operating profit, using its own method of measurement, dropped 26 per cent to NIS 64.8m., compared with a 29 per cent drop for the group. Bad-debt provisions grew 16 per cent, to NIS 48.7m., compared with a 46 per cent rise in the group's set-offs. Thus, the crucial pre-tax operating profit figure showed a loss of only NIS 3.9m., compared with a 1985 profit of NIS 22m. and 1986 group loss of NIS 19.1m.

These figures highlight the impact of Tefahot on Mizrahi, both by boosting the bad-debt provisions and by enlarging the net loss, through having to write down the original investment. Nevertheless, Mizrahi's management said they were determined to hold on to Tefahot.

Yager also dismissed rumours that Mizrahi was negotiating to sell its stake in the overseas holding company that is parent of, among other things, the group's UMB Trust Co. subsidiary in New York. Yager said categorically no negotiations were even being contemplated.

The Mizrahi group's balance sheet fell 3 per cent to NIS 8.88 billion, while deposits from the public dropped 9 per cent to NIS 3.87b. Both of these falls were caused by currency considerations, stemming from the frozen dollar rate that pertained throughout 1986. This factor also gave rise to a NIS 10.5m. fall in Mizrahi's capital means, as its foreign investments were translated into constant shekel terms. This, coupled with the NIS 23m. net loss, reduced total shareholders' equity to NIS 289.2m., a drop of over 10 per cent.

Loans to the public, however, rose 7 per cent to NIS 5.21b. and this, spurred by the pickup in economic activity generally and by the boom in consumer loans in particular, should be a source of higher profits in the future.

Gnr'l Bank posts 1st q. profit

Post Economic Staff

Israel General Bank ended a three-year string of losses with an operating net profit of NIS 475,530 in the quarter ended March 31, the bank announced yesterday.

General Bank, whose main shareholder is Baron Edmond de Rothschild, was the second commercial bank to report its first-quarter results and gave further support to forecasts that the sector will show a marked improvement from its poor 1986 showing. First International Bank Monday reported a 109% profit jump for the quarter.

General's net marked a turnaround from an inflation-adjusted NIS 1.79 million loss in the year-earlier quarter. Due to its small tax bill, General's pre-tax profit was only slightly bigger at NIS 478,069, compared with a NIS 1.79m. loss a year ago.

Shareholders' equity increased to NIS 21.84m. from NIS 21.36m., fortified mainly from retained first-quarter earnings. The balance sheet shrank slightly to NIS 328.89m. from NIS 335.24m., a development the bank attributed to the fact the inflation combined with the frozen shekel/dollar exchange rate cut the value of its foreign currency accounts. About 60 per cent of its deposits are in foreign currencies.

General said it was able to stage the first-quarter turnaround through a combination of cost-cutting and increased business activity. Its workforce was cut 20 per cent, top executives' salaries were pared back 15 per cent and office space in the bank's Tel Aviv headquarters was leased.

State's tiny claim angers judge

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — The judge of the district labour court here this week blasted the State Attorney's Office for wasting his time by claiming a derisory sum from a former employee.

Menorah net up 113%; Migdal's off

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Menorah Insurance Co. Ltd. posted a 113 per cent jump in net profit to NIS 3 million for 1986, while Migdal Insurance Co. showed profits of NIS 5.5m., down almost 20 per cent from 1985 figures, the two companies announced separately Monday.

Menorah Chairman David Hersfeld, told reporters at a press conference that Menorah's premiums also showed real growth of 10 per cent last year. He said life insurance sales were up 23 per cent, while sales of other policies were up 35 per cent.

Capitalization increased from NIS 14 million to NIS 16.1 million, an 8 per cent real rise, while the company's investment holding increased from NIS 306m. to NIS 333m., a Menorah spokesman said.

Hersfeld said elementary insurance, a category that includes everything except life insurance, showed a profit of only NIS 2m., down one third from NIS 3m. last year. He attributed this to the drastic rise in claims' payments last year.

Life insurance premiums cost 23 per cent more than the previous year, just above the 1986 inflation rate, he added.

Migdal Managing Director, Uzi Levi, meanwhile attributed his company's earnings downturn to the frozen shekel/dollar exchange rate, accompanied by steady inflation last year, as well as to intense competition in the auto insurance field.

Migdal's chairman, Shlomo Grotman, noted that 1986 was a good year for life insurance but was poor for other insurance sectors.

Israel Money Markets

Shekel Deposits (annual rates)

Bank	Deposit	Term	7 days	14 days	30 days
Leumi (Apr. 23)	1,000-999	10	11	12	15
	1,000-9,999	21.25	21.75	21.50	21.75
	10,000-49,999	22.75	22.75	22.50	22.75
	50,000+	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Hapoalim (Mar. 27)	1,000-999	21.00	21.00	21.50	21.50
	1,000-9,999	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50
	10,000-49,999	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
	50,000+	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Discount (Apr. 24)	1,000-999	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
	1,000-9,999	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.50
	10,000-49,999	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
	50,000+	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
Mizrahi	1,000-999	—	—	—	—
	1,001-5,000	—	—	—	—
	5,001-10,000	—	—	—	—
	10,001-50,000	—	—	—	—
	50,001-99,999	—	—	—	—
First Intl (Apr. 8)	1,000-999	17.00	15.10	15.10	15.00
	1,000-4,999	22.00	21.80	21.40	20.00
	5,000-9,999	23.00	22.40	22.20	21.00
	10,000-49,999	24.00	22.80	22.80	21.00
	50,000+	25.00	24.00	24.00	23.00

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (1000)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	6.25	6.375	6.275
Pound sterling (£100,000)	8.125	8.0	8.0
Deutsche mark (DM 200,000)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	3.0
Yen (¥2 million yen)	2.5	2.375	2.375

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI. Rates vary according to size of deposit.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (April 28)

Currency	Bank	Rate
U.S. dollar	1.8280	1.8280
Deutsche mark	1.5771	1.5771
Pound sterling	2.8245	2.8245
French franc	0.2630	0.2630
Japanese yen (100)	1.1322	1.1322
Dutch florin	0.7817	0.7817
Swiss franc	1.0816	1.0816
Swedish krona	0.2327	0.2327
Norwegian krone	0.2371	0.2371
Danish krone	0.2343	0.2343
Finland mark	0.3871	0.3871
Canadian dollar	1.1811	1.1811
Australian dollar	1.1188	1.1188
S. African rand	0.7889	0.7889
Belgian franc (10)	0.4222	0.4222
Austrian schilling	1.2838	1.2838
Italian lire (1000)	1.2337	1.2337
Jordanian dinar	—	4.42
Egyptian pound	1.5218	1.5218
Irish punt	2.3560	2.3560
Spanish peseta (100)	1.2862	1.2862

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI.

Foreign Markets

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS (April 28)

Precious Metals	Libor Rates
Gold London a.m. fix. 455.75	1 month 8 1/4%
Gold London p.m. fix. 453.00	3 month 8 1/4%
Gold Paris noon fix. 453.54	6 month 8 1/4%
Gold Zurich p.m. fix. 448.50	1 year 8 1/4%
Silver London spot 484.50	1 month 8 1/4%
Platinum London p.m. 581.50	3 month 8 1/4%

Foreign Currency Crossrates (London 15:30 GMT)

Forward rates	Spot	3 months	6 months	12 months
Pound sterling	1.8232/42	1.8232	1.8232	1.8232
Deutsche mark	1.7850/80	1.7850	1.7850	1.7850
Swiss franc	1.0816/16	1.0816	1.0816	1.0816
Dutch florin	0.7817/17	0.7817	0.7817	0.7817
French franc	0.2630/30	0.2630	0.2630	0.2630
Japanese yen	114.10/10	114.10	114.10	114.10
Italian lire	1936.5/65	1936.5	1936.5	1936.5
Belgian franc	33.33/33	33.33	33.33	33.33
Canadian dollar	0.7889/89	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Australian dollar	0.7889/89	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
S. African rand	0.7889/89	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Norwegian krone	0.2371/71	0.2371	0.2371	0.2371
Danish krone	0.2343/43	0.2343	0.2343	0.2343

Share indices

Comment: The dollar rose again in edge-in-afternoon trading yesterday as the market indulged in some official support, a skeptical market is still awaiting concrete evidence that the U.S. is prepared to position-squaring and left Tokyo to fall any fresh initiatives. Despite continued statements of the strong action to halt the dollar's depreciation.

NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS (April 28)

U.S. Money Rates

Prime rate 7.75% Fed funds rate 5 1/4%

Broker loan 7.75-7.75% Long-term bond 8 1/4-1 1/4%

NY Euro 3 months 7 1/4-7 1/4% Discount rate 5.5%

New York Foreign Exchange

Prev. closing 1.7825/35 SFR 1.4800/00 STG 1.8300/00 YEN 135.25/45 CAN 1.3300/00

Opening 1.7885/95 1.4800/10 1.8300/35 135.00/10 1.3300/00

Limit 1.7850/80 1.4750/80 1.8250/80 134.80/00 1.3250/55

Comment: The dollar rose again in edge-in-afternoon trading yesterday as the market indulged in some official support, a skeptical market is still awaiting concrete evidence that the U.S. is prepared to position-squaring and left Tokyo to fall any fresh initiatives. Despite continued statements of the strong action to halt the dollar's depreciation.

Precious Metals

Gold Spot 451.80 Silver Spot 7.72

Wall Street (Prices as of 16:00 EST)

Market indices

DJ Industrial 2,238.78 +8.24 NYSE Highest Volume

DJ Transport 1,208.94 +1.28 IBM 155.14 +1.14

DJ Utility 1,155.14 +1.14 CONTIN 155.14 +1.14

NYSE Comp 1,155.14 +1.14 BOEING 44.75 +1.14

NYSE Comp 1,155.14 +1.14 UNION CARB 24.75 +1.14

NYSE Ind 1,155.14 +1.14 ATT 24.75 +1.14

NYSE Comp 1,155.14 +1.14 TRIMAC 24.75 +1.14

NYSE Ind 1,155.14 +1.14 PRIME COMP 24.75 +1.14

NYSE Comp 1,155.14 +1.14 COMPAC 24.75 +1.14

NYSE Ind 1,155.14 +1.14 CHEVRON 24.75 +1.14

Statistics

(April 23)

NYSE Volume 179,751,800 NASDAQ Volume 137,712,600

NYSE Stocks up 846 NASDAQ Stocks up 759

NYSE Stocks down 450 NASDAQ Stocks down 1633

Comment: An appreciation in the dollar's value paved the way yesterday for a stock market rise. Technology issues provided the fuel, but traders said a last-minute futures-related sell program left Wall Street with only a slight gain in active trading.

Israel Stocks Traded in New York

NYSE/Amex

Alliance 1 1/2 3 1/4 1 1/2 3 1/4

Am Int Pop 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4

Am Int Pop 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4

Am Int Pop 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4

Am Int Pop 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4 3 1/4

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DEMJANJUK ON TRIAL

(Continued from Page 2)

Before, however, the witness got very far in his methodical and painstaking explanation, which had to be translated from German, there was an angry objection from the defense. Altmann had distributed to the judges and the prosecution glossy-print albums with 22 photos and explanations in German. The defense, however, had only received photo-copies of this album, and Mark O'Connor didn't like it.

"We're only allowed limited 'discovery' with these poor-quality photo-copies of photos which the witness had put into his 'trick-machine.' We find ourselves in the same can of worms we've been in before."

For once Shaked reacted with what seemed real anger. "I often hear snide remarks from the defense about a lack of 'conduct befitting enlightened, law-abiding countries.' The defense has had these self-same glossy photos in its possession since January. There is a limit."

Presiding Judge Dov Levin ended the exchange when he ruled that the prosecution supply the defense with the glossy-print albums. "We often bend over backwards to help the defense. One of the three members of the bench will give his album to the defense for the time being."

Altmann then went on to explain his method. On an enlargement of the photo on the Trawniki ID card he had marked with tiny arrows 24 points of identification. There were such items as the gap between eyebrows, the base of the nose, the nostril rims, the corners of the mouth, the upper lip (skin) and the Schleimhautoberlippenrand (the rim of the mouth membrane upper lip). The position of the ears and their configuration were also important points.

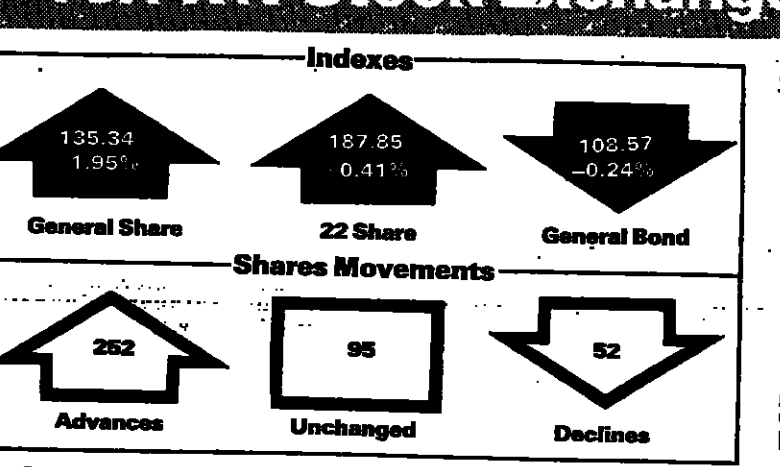
Using the to-be-identified Trawniki photo as a base, Altmann then compared all or most of its points of identification with the other seven photos sent by the prosecution to him.

The seven photographs were the 1941 Komsovol photo, one on a 1947 German driver's license, Demjanjuk's 1948 wedding picture in Germany, his 1951 U.S. visa application, a 1958 Cleveland photo, a 1981 picture taken at his daughter's wedding, and the police photo taken on his arrival here in 1986.

John Demjanjuk's identity is not in doubt in any of these photographs.

Establishing the identity of the Trawniki photo with the seven others required only the visual experience of the investigator. The second part of Altmann's examination, however, involved complicated photographic techniques. Using an electronic method of "mixing" or "blending" photo-

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange



Selected Prices

Name Price Tover % change

Commercial Banks

(part of "arrangement")

Mazda 2700 6879 +3.8

General non-arr. 9000 no trading +5.0

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Who needs universities?

THE cabinet this week made an unprecedented decision: it agreed not to set up another committee.

At issue was the question of university tuition fees. The cabinet has dithered over this for months. Meanwhile, the students have staged walkouts over past increases, and threaten more severe steps if the fees are raised to the level demanded by the Treasury.

So rather than pass the buck to yet another committee, the ministers agreed to make a decision soon. How soon remains to be seen.

But in fact, the issue of fees is only a footnote to a much larger problem, namely the steady deterioration, for lack of adequate funding, of Israel's institutions of higher learning. For a country whose only real natural resource is its brain power and which wants to hinge its economic recovery and eventual economic independence on high technology, the bleeding of the universities is stunningly absurd.

Admittedly the universities are not without blame. Cost overruns, not properly monitored or managed, as, for example, at the Hebrew University, made them easy prey for the scavenging budget cutters at the Treasury.

However, this year all the universities are on a corrective course. They have already pared staffs or are paring more. And over the past several years, they have reduced themselves more severely than any other public institutions—prodigiously more, it bears saying, than the government itself.

What they require immediately are bridging funds to enable budget gaps to be filled this year and perhaps next until their financial repairs again produce an equilibrium.

At the cabinet meeting, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon put the need forward—a \$25 million extra grant this year to the Council for Higher Education which disburses the state's funds to the various schools.

This apparently unsettled the digestion of Moshe Nissim's stand-in at the Treasury, Gideon Patt. Not an agora more, he fumed, even if this meant some universities would close down. Bravely empty-headed words. Coming from the Minister of "Science and Technology," who of all people should have some interest in the universities, they were especially inane.

Does he intend to have the Hebrew University, Jerusalem's largest employer outside the government, shut its doors? And does he expect anyone to believe that a government willing to arrange hundreds of millions for ailing kibbutzim and moshavim, let alone economically non-viable West Bank settlements, cannot or will not arrange a small fraction of that for the country's universities?

Instead of posturing as acting finance minister, Mr. Patt would do better to take a good look at what his own ministry is doing and not doing to advance research and development in this country.

The sorry fact is that almost all the money allocated to the universities goes to salaries. Puny funds are left to finance research or maintain equipment.

Purchase of new equipment to keep Israeli research at the cutting edge has become a pipe dream. Various university departments say their tools are at least twenty years behind.

Little wonder that there is a massive brain drain, while Mr. Patt and his colleagues blow the breeze about aliya. And little wonder too that Israel's university scientists, starved for funds, are forced to rent their knowledge and skills to foreign institutions—public and private—who then capitalize on the findings here for development and profit abroad.

While Mr. Patt looks on, with no science policy to mar his record, Israel's science declines. Like Third World countries, who can only export their raw materials but not produce industrial infrastructures around them, so Israel is becoming a simple exporter of research and researchers.

If the trend is not reversed, Mr. Patt won't have to prattle about closing universities. They won't merit remaining open.

IRANGATE

(Continued from Page One)

Israel was not living up to a commitment last February from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to the respective Senate and House chambers of the select committees, Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Representative Lee Hamilton of Indiana. At that time, Shamir promised that Israel would cooperate by responding in writing to such American questions.

But Shamir then made no demands that the Israeli officials receive a blanket immunity from prosecution or that Israel have a say in the public release of the information.

U.S. officials said Israel was especially interested in trying to protect Amiram Nir, adviser to the Prime Minister on counterterrorism; Ya'acov Nimrodi, an arms dealer;

Al Schwimmer, another arms dealer who was the founding chairman of Israel Aircraft Industries; and David Kimche, the former director-general of the Foreign Ministry who is today working for industrialist Shaul Eisenberg.

The four were the key Israeli contacts in the ill-fated U.S. arms deal with Iran. Their actions are said to have been authorized by then-prime minister Shimon Peres and his cabinet.

To avoid any criminal prosecution of those Israeli citizens, Ambassador Meir Rosenne has met with Walsh, who has refused to be bound by an independent agreement Israel may reach with the Congressional investigatory committees. Walsh and Rosenne are due to resume their meetings next week.

The Washington Post yesterday reported that the State Department had refused an Israeli request that it receive the financial information directly from Israel on a government-to-government basis and that the information be kept from Walsh. State Department officials said that they would have to turn over all the material to the counsel.

Attorney-General Ed Meese—based on private interviews with Lt. Col. Oliver North, the ousted National Security Council staffer—has maintained that the original idea for diverting the Iran arms profits to the contras came from Nir, a charge denied by Israel.

Soviets move towards Mideast centre stage

Pinhas Inbari

IT MAY BE too early to predict the real significance of the Palestine National Council meetings which ended in Algiers this week, but there is no doubt about one victorious party behind the scenes—the Soviet Union.

Political vacuums do not last for ever, so while the U.S. is keeping a low profile in the Middle East, the Soviet Union is plotting a more prominent role for itself. But surprisingly, this is not necessarily the same hostile Soviet Union which in previous years spearheaded the anti-Israeli camp.

The Communist super-power is sending out signals which indicate a desire to shift allegiances in the Middle East—preferring the company of Egypt and... Israel, to that of Libya and Syria.

To understand what is behind the new Soviet diplomacy one must consider the Kremlin's global aims. *Detente* has become the lynchpin of Soviet global strategy, and the main aim is to persuade the American public to demand that the Reagan Administration abandon its "Star Wars" project.

A renewed arms race with the U.S., this time of cosmic dimensions, could ruin the Soviet economy, and certainly is not in line with the more compromising attitude of the new leadership team in the Kremlin.

The Middle East has a part to play

in all this. In order to persuade the American public to oppose "Star Wars," the Soviets must demonstrate their sincerity in wanting to share responsibility with the U.S. for international stability. The Soviet Union must change its image among Americans from that of a sworn enemy to one of a friend—thus the decision to seek a peace-making role in the Middle East.

The Soviets believe that in order to appear as peacemakers to Americans, it will help if they first win over the Israelis, perhaps by allowing more Jews to leave. Clearly, the Kremlin realizes that it is much easier to be seen as a peace-making partner in the Middle East if its policy is based on friendly ties with Israel and Egypt, rather than if it is perceived as a friend of arch-terrorists Gaddafi of Libya and Syria's President Assad.

Although it is politically feasible for the Soviet Union to rid itself of its "dubious" friends, Libya and Syria, it is ideologically impossible for the Kremlin to desert the PLO. The Soviet leadership may change its policy regarding any regime, however difficult, but "betraying a national liberation movement" is unthinkable for the leader of the Communist world.

The first to see the new priorities in Soviet policy was Gaddafi. Whereas Assad has an "American alternative," Gaddafi has not, and has apparently realized that continued support of the most militant terrorist groups could lead him into a confrontation with the Soviets. This seems to be the main reason for Gaddafi's shift of sympathy from the radical Abu Nidal and Abu Mustafa factions in the PLO to a renewal of relations with Arafat.

Assad, too, is taking into serious account the shift in Soviet policy, and that is the main reason why he is no longer contemplating a new war against Israel, but rather putting on a face of reasonableness.

From this perspective we have to judge his peace-keeping, anti-Iranian policy in Lebanon, and his participation in the pro-Iraq Islamic conference in Kuwait in January. While Gaddafi has "divorced" Abu Nidal to get rid of the terrorist stigma, Assad is distancing himself from his Iranian allies to achieve the same aim and has launched his anti-terrorist policy in Lebanon.

Assad is concentrating on Lebanon because a reconciliation with Arafat is too much for him to swallow.

The Soviets played a prominent role behind the scenes in the process which led to the convening of the Palestine National Council, and

Dry Bones



have been trying to get Assad to accept Arafat as PLO leader.

Israel must take into account that an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union demands also a shift in Israeli policy on the Palestinian problem. There is no reason to believe that the Soviets will sacrifice

Arafat for Israel's sake after quarrelling on the subject with the Syrians.

It may be this which is behind the recent cooling of Kremlin attitudes towards Israel.

The writer is a journalist specializing in Middle East affairs.

Children of intermarriage — an Orthodox solution

Rabbi J. Simcha Cohen

kabbalat mitzvot—the awareness of and commitment to observe Jewish commandments. It is a basic rule that conversions must manifest commitment for observance of Jewish law. It is essential for a legitimate conversion. Yet, all child conversions lack this process. Children, or infants, cannot make commitments nor comprehend the need for observance.

Yet, such conversions are acceptable to religious authorities. The reason must be that "commitment" is essential only when it is possible to ascertain; when the potential convert has the physical and intellectual capacity to be aware of rituals and commit himself (or herself) to observance.

For an infant, however, commitment is beyond comprehension, and this element is deemed non-essential. In other words, consideration of observance is not germane to the child-conversion process. This is especially the case when a Jewish father brings his child to a rabbinical court and formally requests conversion. In such an instance the conversion is deemed a voluntary process, for children wish to emulate the role model of parents.

This issue is of paramount importance. Most Jewish spouses of intermarriage want their children accepted as Jews. They desire that their children be legitimized as Jews by the most demanding group, the Orthodox. Yet, pragmatically, they

are reluctant to approach Orthodox rabbis. They recognize that the Orthodox leaders require commitment to observance before a conversion.

Most mixed couples cannot honestly make such a commitment, and are unwilling to misrepresent their views.

But if commitment is not essential, then the overriding impediment to an Orthodox conversion is removed. Spouses of intermarriage will come to Orthodox religious courts with or without the encouragement of the Conservative and Reform rabbinate. The children would be considered as Jews by all segments of the community. Such a procedure definitely resolves the status problem of children of gentle mothers.

Parents would bring their children to Orthodox rabbinical courts. The rabbis may require of the parents a commitment to send the children to Torah day schools as a means of ensuring knowledge and observance.

While they are minors (less than 13 years and a day for boys, and 12 years and a day for girls) the children would be informed of the conversion. According to Jewish law, their Jewish status would be automatic provided they do not reject it. Jewish fathers who wish their children to be accepted by all segments of Jewry would simply avail themselves of this simple procedure. To the extent that Conservative and Reform rabbis accept Orthodox conversions, the children would be complete Jews accepted by all.

In terms of socio-religious implications, two objections come to mind. Some authorities may contend that rabbinical sanction to convert children of intermarriage might corrode the intensity of the prohibition against intermarriage itself. It would remove a safeguard (or barrier) to intermarriage. Would it not be better to make the sin more onerous upon the violators by ruling that the children are not Jewish?

Another argument may be that it is simply not worthwhile. The Jewish nation is not concerned with demography but with observance of commandments. The role of the rabbinic should be to uplift the quality of Jews of unquestionable status, not

to create Jews who live like gentiles. These concerns should not be shunted aside as peripheral issues. They manifest a righteous concern to safeguard the purity of tradition. Yet, neither should an alternative view be dismissed as lacking sincerity.

The Orthodox rabbinate encounters only a very small proportion of those seeking intermarriage. Indeed, we do not have an opportunity even to dissuade couples contemplating intermarriage or fraudulent conversions. Such people do not approach the Orthodox rabbinate at all.

By validating the conversion of minor children even though the family is non-observant, we may, at least, give the Orthodox a chance to make contact with vast numbers of people not encountered at present. Some level of commitment may be encouraged. The family, at least, may be guided in Torah values or commit themselves to a day school education for their children.

What parent would not seek to validate the Jewish authenticity of his or her child by all segments of Jewry? Instead of opening the gates to intermarriage, it would give Orthodox Jewry a chance to teach its goals and the value of a Torah lifestyle.

Orthodox Jewry has become a fortress separated from the general Jewish community. It should not simply write off vast numbers of transgressors as outcasts. As long as Jewish law provides a device for the proper conversion of children of intermarriage, it should be used. The approach could give many people a chance of becoming true Torah Jews.

The writer is the rabbi at Congregation Shearei Tefila in Los Angeles.

READERS' LETTERS

BIZARRE AMERICAN CONDUCT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — It is a norm of international relations for friendly countries to spy on one another. When such episodes are uncovered, it is normal that they be handled discreetly and secretly. The first question to be asked, therefore, is why did the American establishment elect to provoke an unholy international row over the Pollard affair.

It is implicit in the quasi-alliance relationship between the U.S. and Israel, the American commitment to Israel's survival and Israel's loyalty to America, that information in the possession of one party which is required for its defence by the other will be made available to it. The second question therefore is why have the Americans been systematically withholding information from Israel which she considered so vital to her interests that she run the risks involved in the Pollard affair in order to obtain it.

The status of ally to the U.S. is not a secure and comfortable one. There have been betrayals as Taiwan and Vietnam know; there has been disproportionate vindictiveness towards an independent stance as New Zealand has discovered; there has been arrogant indifference to the economic plight of weaker allies, as Australia and Europe are aware.

In the vastly complex interior life of the U.S. there are the seeds of double-dealing and the pursuit of contradictory policies which have repeatedly threatened the security of Israel itself, from arms deals with our sworn enemies to "peace plans" which would leave us defenceless. In the disproportion of our relationship with the U.S. we are wide open to blackmail and have, as in the Suez crisis, been obliged to submit to it. It is to these issues that it would have been appropriate for both the American Jewish establishment and the Israeli establishment to have reacted. The inappropriate sense of guilt and apprehension which has swept Jews on both sides of the Atlantic testifies to the persistence of a galut mentality in us all. Let us and the American Jews cease throwing stones at each other and combine to confront the American establishment with a demand for an explanation of its bizarre and self-defeating conduct.

DR. DAVID WOLFERS
Jerusalem.

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